

**322. Hon. D McKay (DA) asks the Hon. MEC responsible for COGTA&HS: Mr. T Mokoena.**

Follow-up on question 30 of 2024 of the 7th administration, Pertaining to the illegal occupation of the plots adjacent to Lourierpark in Mangaung Ward 18, (Case: 1248/2024). In respect to the court order handed down on 2 March 2024 and confirmed on the 20 June 2024::

1. Has a recent comparative audit of the area as agreed been executed, (a) if not, why not, and when will it be done (b) if so, when was it done, (c) and what are the relevant details
2. Were any anomalies found in terms of registered occupants, (b) new structures, (c) current structure movements and expansions?
3. Please supply the original list of names, surnames and numerical allocation, taken by the sheriff in March 2024.
4. If a recent audit has been completed, please supply the outcome list of names, surnames and numerical allocation.
5. If anomalies were discovered, how have or will it be addressed, (b) if they will not be addressed why not?
6. What is the current progress of development of the prepare plots on farm X 2727, (b) if no progress has taken place since question 30 was answered, why not, (c) what actions will be taken to rectify the situation?
7. If work is in progress, is it on track in terms of project timeline milestones and what is the projected completion date and relocation date?
8. What are the interim arrangements to address services requirements at the occupied area, such as water and sanitation?

**NO RESPONSE**

**RESPONSE 14/07/2025**

1. The team was sent on 23 May 2025 to conduct audit in Lourie Park however the audit was restricted by unavailability of occupiers and only letters were left in structures, this was for the purpose of a follow up visit which has not taken place. The main reason for non-completion is that there is a shortage of staff resulting in same officials doing both Informal Settlement functions as well as Beneficiary Management functions. The sub-directorate has also a challenge in using overtime due to our financial situation and the fact that the AG has been quiring the excessive use of overtime which mainly augment the shortage. However, program for the new financial year action plan is in progress and all the areas that have experienced delays in program implementation will be addressed.
2. The final audit details will be shared as soon as we finalize that process.
3. See attached list.
4. The new list will be available upon completion of the audit
5. Anomalies if any will be picked up once the audit report is finalized.
6. Farm X2727 is currently undergoing a township establishment process in accordance with the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, No. 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA). This legislated process requires several statutory approvals from various stakeholders affected by or involved in the application. This development abounds the Free State Provincial Road and the proposed National Road.

Key approvals being pursued include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval from DESTEA, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA),
- Traffic Impact Study (TIA) approval by Free State Department of Roads and Transport, in terms of National Land Transport Act
- Traffic Impact Study approval SANRAL, in terms of National Land Transport Act
- Input from other relevant affected parties, and
- Approval of Surveyor General Plans and Diagrams of the township by the SG Office

These approvals are subject to legislated timelines and coordination among entities. If no unforeseen delays or objections arise, the statutory planning process is expected to be completed by December 2026. Consequently, the planned relocation of the settlement residents is anticipated to take place shortly, thereafter, aligned with the completion of statutory and physical preparations.

7. Yes, the work is progressing and remains on track relative to project milestones. As indicated in point 6, the projected completion date for the statutory processes is December 2026, and relocation is expected to follow thereafter, subject to the finalization of all approvals.

8. The people of Laurie Park will be serviced through communal water and communal sanitation. Communal servicing of informal settlements is budgeted for under the ISUPG. Though the target being chased is a moving target.