

Residents blamed for building under high power lines

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HE said they are glad that finally people have their own shelters where they would not continue to pay rent. However, he said they got the land through resistance. "We have been shot at with rubber bullets and tear gassed by the JMPD, but that didn't deter us. You see I'm madala but I was running away from the tear gas."

Moilola is angry that in 1996 he was one of the ANC officials who was mandated to register people to get RDPS. "Ironically I was left behind with my family. I think my house is already occupied by somebody unknown," Another leader behind land grabbing, Man Kekana said: "Mashaba (Mayor Herman) must come and give us water and electricity. Next year no party will campaign if they do not provide services to us. They must give us electricity and water so that when we

can vote, we know which party we are voting for next year."

Cllr Tefo Raphadu said nobody gave them permission to build. "That place is under the pylons and is very dangerous. When the rainy season comes with thunderstorms, people's lives are going to be in danger. I have interacted with the JMPD's office, Mr. Sekhula, I have interacted with the Johannesburg Property Council, MMC Michael Sun (For Public Safety) the region E director Makoro (Ms Liziwe Ntshinga) about the issue but we have not been getting joy. Actually we have been failed by this DA-led administration."

Raphadu said he sent countless email to the MMC. "He said he will intervene. And I know that the city has the program called Buyisa Mthetho, but unfortunately there's no Buyisa Mthetho in Alex, 'dololo'. That frustrates because those people

will become the burden to the city because they are living under dangerous situation.

Where are they going to find toilets, services like water, and electricity? It's dangerous that people will be electrocuted. It's frustrating for us as councilors because we are here to report issues but they are not taken up. It is very bad because the community is looking at us that we are not assisting them at the end of the day and that is the sad part of it. I don't know, maybe they are waiting for the DA councilor to raise it."

The Human Settlement's Department spokesperson Keith Khoza blamed residents for building under the pylons: "It is wrong because of the danger they expose themselves to. The municipality in the form of Joburg Metro is responsible to regulate settlement patterns and to prevent illegal settlements that violate by-laws of the city. The

Metro must prevent such settlements."

The spokesperson for JMPD Wayne Minaar didn't respond to our messages at the time of going to the press. Eskom media relations officer in Gauteng, Tumi Moloi, said her department usually engages the Human Settlement office for intervention. She referred us to City Power, saying Eskom was not responsible for Alex.

The spokesperson of City Power Isaac Mangena said: "The pylons are mostly owned by Eskom while City Power only distributes electricity at local level from house to house."

When we contacted Makoro she said she was still on leave and suggested we call, Gideon who spoke on her behalf.

"I would suggest you speak to Minaar (JMPD spokesperson)," said Gideon (he didn't provide his surname when we asked for it.



Pic: Jonk Mashamba

Cllr Tefo Raphadu

It's raining cats and dogs of blessings on Sandton SPCA after robbery

COMMUNITY members and local businesses have rallied behind the Sandton branch of the SPCA after it was hard hit recently by a robbery.

The SPCA branch in Marlboro Gardens was robbed at the end of July, leaving staff without vital equipment needed to keep the doors open.

"Various items, including computers and appliances, were stolen," said Kennel Manager, Xolani Mncube.

"We were shocked, utterly shocked and just could not believe it. It was desecration, a violation to the highest order," the SPCA Sandton wrote in a post on its Facebook page. The robbery came at a critical time for the branch as it was setting up for an animal adoption day within the week of the crime.

Thankfully, residents and lo-

cal businesses rallied behind the animal welfare group. Within hours, locals responded to the SPCA's call for aid with donations of money and goods. One appliance, electronics and furniture retailer, Teljoy, came forward and gifted the furry friends and their caretakers with a new refrigerator, which will now be used to store the animals' medication.

"We are always happy to assist where we can and, as this was such a critical time for the SPCA and their furry friends, it was an absolute pleasure to have been able to step in," said Teljoy CEO, Rami Sassen. A local pub and grub, The Old Rose, held a donation drive while other business owners also offered their services. The SPCA's Mncube said the outpouring of support from the community was greatly

appreciated.

"Our staff are always overwhelmed and happy when we receive donations. We really appreciate the support we receive from everyone," said Mncube.

As it stands, the branch has received thousands of rands and goods in donations but Mncube said they're still in need of a proper internet service provider (preferably on a pro bono basis) and a proper VOIP telephone system as theirs has been damaged beyond repair.

"We will emerge stronger and more determined to continue the vital work we do; to help those who cannot help themselves," the branch's management said on Facebook.

If you would like to help with donations or to volunteer, contact the Sandton SPCA at <https://www.sandtonspca.org.za/> or give them a call on 011 444 7730.



Pic: Supplied

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