

SPEECH BY DAN PLATO

HANDOVER OF FREEDOM PARK PEOPLE'S HOUSING PROJECT

5 NOVEMBER 2009

Cllr Sims, MAYCO member for Housing

Councillors Pringle and Bent

The Tafelsig East Crime Prevention Forum

The Freedom Park Development Forum Executive

Representatives of Backyarder Forum

Development Action Group Staff

Today we are celebrating a disadvantaged community that has decided to work together in a constructive way and be involved at every stage in the development of solutions to their housing needs.

We are also celebrating housing solutions which are in many ways a blueprint for the future of housing developments in South Africa. Freedom Park features cutting edge designs and appropriate technology that has the best possible functionality within the conditions that it works and with the money that is available. We also see urban planning that is tailor-made for this community, and which will respond to your needs better than any solution dreamed up by an outsider ever could.

I want to affirm that my administration is committed to addressing Cape Town's housing challenges in close co-operation with our poorer

communities, and that we are very proud of the example that Freedom Park has set.

I want to thank the large number of NGOs and private sector investors who have made generous contributions to this project, financially and in terms of their skills, ideas and training. I think you can be very proud of what has been achieved. I think all of us who have been involved can safely say that our work has paid off.

I want to see this community building on its achievements in the future. Like we have seen in South Africa, it is one thing for people to work together when they are struggling to win freedom, but it is very easy to just sit back after you have got what you needed and not keep working for the greater good. I want to see Freedom Park developing in the future as a place that is known for being safe, clean, well-maintained and a pleasure to live in. And you, as its residents, have a responsibility to make sure that happens, in partnership with us in the City of Cape Town. I also want to see you using the skills and experience that you may have gained through this project to contribute towards your community and to our country's economy.

Thank you.