

CBD

Residents vow to take action

NOMZAMO YUKU

 @NomzamoYuku

The informal dwellers of the 18th Avenue Squatter Camp are threatening to protest to ward councillor Helen Jacobs's office should this evening's (Tuesday 5 November) meeting not materialise.

This is according to Jimmy Xalipi, a veteran resident who led the steering committee to a meeting with the City of Cape Town officials that was scheduled for Wednesday 30 October at the Civic Centre in the CBD.

Xalipi says the meeting was aimed at addressing service delivery issues in 18th Avenue, wanting answers regarding plans to install electricity, water and improve the infrastructure. Xalipi says the postpone-

ment of the meeting angered them hence they resorted to protesting and forcefully fetching water from Jacob's office. He says the officials do not take them seriously as they failed to communicate with them before the time, resulting in a waste of money and time.

Liz Morta, an assistant at Jacobs's office, says the meeting has been scheduled for tonight, at the Kensington Civic Centre at 19:00.

Phindile Maxiti, Mayco member for energy and climate change, says the meeting did not go ahead as all role-players, "including officials from the National Department of Public Works, were not available. I am open to meeting with the residents and the meeting will be rescheduled in due course".

Malusi Booi, the City of Cape Town's Mayco member for human settlements, further explains that the provision of services was not planned and is therefore not included in the City's current budget or resource allocation. "The City also has to act in fairness and to recognise all of the other communities who have been waiting patiently for the delivery of services. This is especially important in light of the enormous increase in land invasions across the metro over the past months," says Booi.

He says there are many newly established communities demanding services and the City is unable to cater for all.

"Furthermore, the property in question is privately owned. The City can only provide basic services on private land should the owner grant permission for this, should the City be able to do so," he adds.



Helen Jacobs

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