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Concerns over housing allocations

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The DA in Polokwane has raised concerns over what it calls a lack of transparency in the allocation of municipal housing units and has urged the Polokwane Municipality to urgently develop a clear policy to guide the process.

This follows a recent report submitted to council which showed that 17 wards were each allocated 11 housing units, totalling 187 units.

The DA said there is currently no information available on the exact locations of these units within the wards, creating uncertainty and suspicion around the process.

"The secrecy surrounding these allocations raises doubts about fairness, accountability and equitable access for all community members," the party stated.

According to the DA, state housing allocations should be handled as an

administrative function, conducted fairly and transparently, free from political influence and based strictly on need and compliance with approved beneficiary lists and housing policy criteria.

DA councillor and spokesperson Rita James said previous forensic investigations by Bowman Gilfillan had revealed nepotism and manipulation of databases in other municipal programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

"The DA is concerned that without an effective policy guiding housing allocations, similar irregularities will occur. We reject any form of political interference, favouritism or manipulation in the allocation of housing opportunities," she said.

She added that councillors or political figures should never use housing opportunities as a tool for political gain or to reward party loyalty.

Municipal spokesperson Thipa Selala

refuted the claims, confirming that housing allocations across wards followed an established and transparent process guided by planning, technical readiness and demonstrated need.

"The benefitting wards are: 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 35, 36 and 38. Their selection was based on defined criteria, including excluding wards that benefitted in the previous year, land suitability through geotechnical reports, and readiness for implementation."

He added that councillors only identify priority areas and submit community-based lists, which are then verified by municipal and departmental officials.

"No political office-bearer has the authority to allocate housing units. All beneficiary lists are audited and approved through formal governance processes. Any attempt to use housing opportunities for political or personal gain is strictly prohibited and will be investigated."



Municipal spokesperson Thipa Selala refutes claims over lack of transparency.