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INDEPENDENT

Cape Argus

TSUNAMI AFTERMATH
WORLD PAGE 11



CATHERINE and Cyril Wagner both turned 94 last week. Their life's wish is to return to District Six from which they were forcibly removed under apartheid 52 years ago. See page 2 | **ARMAND HOUGH** African News Agency (ANA)

HOUSING

Probe into auction of land

Mayor orders forensic investigation into prime Foreshore property sold at a loss of R58m

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MAYOR Patricia de Lille has ordered a forensic investigation into the auction of prime City property on the Foreshore that was severely undervalued.

"I discussed the matter with the City manager, Lungelo Mbandazayo, and this week wrote to him to request that he initiate a forensic investigation. There are allegations that the land was severely undervalued and that this resulted in a loss of R58 million," De Lille said.

Last month, social housing advo-

cacy group Ndifuna Ukwazi sounded the alarm after they obtained documents which raised serious questions about top City officials allegedly implicated in a so-called botched auction of the prime piece of land.

The City gave notice in local newspapers of an application by Growthpoint Properties Limited to develop Site B – a 3 932m² piece of prime land on the Foreshore.

Growthpoint plans to develop a skyscraper that "aims to be a world-class, timeless, innovative, sustainable building, which will serve to inspire

future buildings".

What caught the organisation's eye in the City's notice was that Growthpoint was asserting it already has the rights to build 46 000m² of bulk on the land. The balance of the floating bulk on Blocks A and B is therefore approximately 46 000m² and is available in the area described as Block AB, which includes the site of the Icon building.

When Block B1 was bought by Growthpoint, it only purchased 17 500m² of that bulk.

"I wrote to the city manager to express my concern at this alleged

loss of public funds and also stated that the City could also run the risk of an audit query from the auditor general or as a result of a member of the public reporting the matter to the public protector," De Lille said.

Jared Rossouw, co-director at Ndifuna Ukwazi, said: "At this point we welcome the forensic investigation. It must be swift, the results must be made public, and those officials and politicians who are responsible must be held accountable."

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SPORT LEGENDS
HONOURER
METRO PAGE 4

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RESOLUTION

Anglican Church leaders back shutdown protesters

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LEADERS of the Anglican Church of South Africa have come out in support of the Total Shutdown Movement, which sparked nationwide protest against the lack of government action in dealing with gangsterism and criminality on the Cape Flats.

The leaders who gathered in Gauteng adopted a resolution on Friday, backing efforts by local church leaders to assist and support shutdown protests across the country.

The support call came after several

areas in the Cape and Johannesburg were brought to a standstill last week as residents took to the streets to protest violence and crime in their areas.

In a statement, the leaders who represent dioceses from across South Africa, said they acknowledge the struggle and pain experienced by communities caught in ongoing cycles of poverty and condemned the lack of effective action by national, provincial and local government.

"(We) express specific support for communities in Westbury and on the Cape Flats and the Shutdown Move-

ment in seeking to peacefully protest against the gangsterism flourishing in their communities.

"(We) request the archbishop to assure the religious and community leaders and structures on the ground of our prayers and support as they continue to give guidance to these communities in seeking to ensure these crises receive urgent attention by the authorities," read the statement.

The support was welcomed by Western Cape shutdown committee member Henriette Abrahams, who said that the increase in support from

organisations across South Africa could result in unrest unfolding in the country.

"It's the entire community that is saying enough is enough because it's the right thing we're campaigning for. It's time that we as a community take our power back because no one is really fighting for (the) poor on a collective basis," she said.

Abrahams said communities in the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape are taking power into their own hands. She said with voting season coming up, their needs cannot be ignored.

RECOVERY

Reduced water tariffs kick in

JASON FELIX jason.felix@inl.co.za

FROM today, reduced water tariffs kick in, but the City is still milking rate-payers as it has in August alone raked in R405 million more on water than planned.

These and other over recovery amounts were recorded in the City's financial report for August, which will be presented to the finance portfolio committee today.

According to the Municipal Finance Management Act, the City's accounting officer must by no later than 10 working days after the end of each month submit to mayor Patricia de

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