



468 Edmond Street, Arcadia Pretoria | 012-035-1955 Cell : 061-484-6360 | CEO : 079-476-2949  
Email: [kitso.lesedi@gmail.com](mailto:kitso.lesedi@gmail.com) | [Maki@kitsolesedi.co.za](mailto:Maki@kitsolesedi.co.za) | Website: [kitsolesedi.co.za](http://kitsolesedi.co.za)

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21st March 2022

Social Development & Community Services

City of Tshwane

Attention: Cllr Peggy de Bruin

Honourable MMC

Let me first greet you and your colleagues on this day of commemorating Human Rights! I am writing to follow up on the meeting we had, and the WhatsApp I sent to our Acting Group Head – Mr. Thabo Mokebe on 28 February 2022. I have been waiting for a formal meeting confirmation from your office until now and have since decided to raise matters in writing.

Today on Human Rights Day, I felt it is appropriate to raise some of the concerns. As a Stakeholder in Social Development and upholding others “dignity” I can safely say that, rights can only be protected when human dignity is recognized not the other way around. Human dignity is thus the safeguard of human rights.

Today if it was possible, we were supposed to commemorate this day with those marginalized and vulnerable women, children, youth, people living with disability and old people living and sleeping in the street including those in the inhuman temporary shelters - No. 2 Strubben Street and Home for Homeless (430 Madiba Street). We were supposed to glance at the importance of this day, as for many of us it is just a holiday, we should consider the dignity of those living and sleeping in the street, in unbearable and inhuman places that are called shelters within our city.



#### Board Members

Refiloe Mabaso - Chairperson | Michael Abby Mavuso - Deputy Chairperson | Thembeni Khoza - Treasurer | Tebogo Mbokazi - Board secretary  
Dimakatso Tselapedi - Founder/CEO | Sepaile Mashego - Member | Anna Maria Sanfilippo - Member | Dr. Palesa Gloria Mahlangu - Member  
Dr. Avela Zukiswa Mayekiso - Member | Mpho Ledwaba - Member | Seipati Baardman - Member | Rofhiwa Maboho - Member



*Anniversary*

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On a daily basis at the above-mentioned shelters, we experience verbal and emotional abuse from our beneficiaries, and we continue to serve because we know that they need help. Let me mention a few incidents of abuse: we are always accused as using their names to enrich ourselves, sometimes we bring donations of clothing, and we experience fights, we can't even control them. Today at a shelter - Home for Homeless, we found a plastic filled with faeces placed inside the water tank, which led to the formation of worms in the water. They did not know who threw plastic of faeces into the water tank. It is unacceptable and very disturbing. We cannot ignore and neglect the needs of our homeless beneficiaries. We humbly request support and visible Partnership from the law enforcement and other stakeholders from the city.

MMC we humbly request a property/building where we can serve our homeless community with dignity. We will be able to run it with conditions that are conducive and rules of engagement more than anything with dignity and integrity, the city will be proud to share with their counterparts and shine once more. In the day like this – Human Rights Day, our people will be able to give testimonies. Most of them will be reuniting with their families. I know it's not going to be easy but together we can make it. We need your assistance and full support MMC.

May we enjoy our rights in all spheres of life and in all tiers of authority. We will wait for your favourable prompt response.

Yours in community development

Maki Tselapedi

Founder & CEO



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