11 March 2026

Mr. J. Mettler
City Manager
City of Tshwane Municipality
320 Madiba Street
Pretoria Central
RETORIA 0001

By e-mail: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Subject: Urgent Request for Information – Proposed Relocation to Nico Smith &
Johan Heyns Site**

Dear Mr. Mettler,

AfriForum hereby formally requests urgent clarity regarding the reported relocation of
individuals associated with the Melgisedek property to the site located at the corner of Nico
Smith Street and Johan Heyns Drive in the Moot area.

We are aware that a fire reportedly broke out at the Melgisedek building approximately a
month ago, and we understand that such an incident may require intervention by the City.
However, despite this understanding, serious questions remain regarding the urgency, the
processes followed, and the broader implications of the proposed relocation.

Preparations at the identified site have already commenced, including excavation work for
fencing and plans to erect approximately 60 tents. The site is located opposite the Gezina
Galleries shopping centre, next to a large medicine depot, and near residential properties.

Given the potential impact on surrounding residents, businesses, and the individuals who will
be relocated, AfriForum requests urgent written responses to the following questions:

1. **Urgency of the relocation**
   While we acknowledge the fire that occurred approximately a month ago, we request
   clarity on what has made the relocation so urgent at this stage, particularly given that
   the building has reportedly been occupied in its current state for several years.
2. **Process followed to select the site**
   What process was followed by the City of Tshwane to identify and select the land at
   the corner of Nico Smith Street and Johan Heyns Drive as the relocation site?
3. **Alternative options considered**
   Were any alternative locations or solutions considered before deciding on this site? If
   so, please provide details of those options and the reasons why they were not
   pursued.
4. **Mandate and responsibility**
   Under what mandate or authority has the City decided to take responsibility for this
   relocation and the establishment of the temporary tent settlement?
5. **Resources to be allocated**
   How many municipal resources will be committed to this process, including:
   o Financial expenditure
   o Personnel

- o Equipment
- o Vehicles

6. **Budget allocation**
   Was provision made in the municipal budget for projects of this nature? If so, from which budget or department will the funds for this project be drawn?

7. **Humanitarian standards**
   What measures will be implemented to ensure that the relocated individuals are accommodated in conditions that meet acceptable humanitarian and dignity standards, particularly considering the lack of permanent infrastructure such as running water and sanitation?

8. **Impact on surrounding community**
   What measures will the City implement to mitigate the impact on surrounding residents and businesses, including matters related to security, public order, sanitation, and general safety in the area?

9. **Definition of "temporary"**
   The relocation has reportedly been described as temporary. Please indicate what timeframe the City considers to be "temporary" in this context.

10. **Stakeholder engagement**
    Has the City engaged with other relevant stakeholders in this process, including community structures, businesses, SAPS, churches, NGO's or civil society organisations, or is the matter being handled internally without broader collaboration?

11. **Public participation**
    Was any form of public participation or consultation conducted prior to the decision to establish the tent settlement at this location?

We further request that the City provide responses to the above questions by no later than 13 March 08:00, given that it has been indicated that the relocation may already commence as early as 17 March.

AfriForum believes that matters of this nature require transparency, proper planning, and meaningful engagement with affected communities. We remain willing to engage constructively with the City to ensure that solutions are implemented responsibly and sustainably.

Regards,

Llewellynn Hemmens
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