

The City of Cape Town was contacted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 for in-depth comment on the issues raised in the film. Detailed responses attributable to both Councillor Malusi Booi (Mayoral Committee Member for Human Settlements) and Alderman Xanthea Limberg (Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Waste) were received on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, respectively, and are available below.

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## **QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: COUNCILLOR MALUSI BOOI (MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS)**

### **Section 1 (statistics)**

*The film describes the surveying and gathering of data by a civil society organisation to determine how many people live in Qandu-Qandu (Khayelitsha) and the kinds of services that are provided to people living in this area.*

### **Specific questions around these data (responses from Mr Booi in bold)**

Q1. There is a suggestion that the City of Cape Town provided one chemical toilet for every 50 houses. Does the City of Cape Town have numbers for how many people live in Qandu-Qandu and how many homes there are in that area?

Q2. Following on from that, could the City of Cape Town confirm how many toilets were provided for each home or person?

Q3. There is a suggestion in the film that the City of Cape Town only provides chemical toilets to residents of Qandu-Qandu. Is this correct - what services does the City of Cape Town provide to Qandu-Qandu?

**The City has limited resources and many communities which have been in existence for many years have been waiting patiently for improved services. It provides services in a planned manner and cannot provide services immediately, if at all, for unplanned settlements that are created. Most often these settlements are created from illegal occupation and many of the settlements are situated in areas that the City had not planned for human settlements, which make the provision of services difficult or not possible. This is the reality. The City works in a systematic way, first come first served in general. It does not have unlimited finances or human resources to cater to newer unplanned settlements.**

**It would not be fair for this settlement to be prioritised over others for urgent service provision. The City therefore tries to prevent the illegal occupation of land as it has a negative impact on service delivery, community facilities, planned projects. However, the City, together with the Green Point Extension community leadership, has conducted an on-site inspection, to establish the topographical conditions, space availability and congestion of the area. This will assist in assessing the feasibility of installing basic services, if all policy criteria are met, in the future and within the available resources and planning cycle of the City.**

### **Quote 01:**

*We fought that and we are now staying here, but the City of Cape Town doesn't acknowledge us as existing people. We don't even exist on the map.*

### **Specific questions around this quote (responses from Mr Booi in bold)**

Q4. Is Qandu-Qandu included in the City of Cape Town's mapping of Cape Town, and thus included in plans for service delivery? If so, would it be possible to see that map?

**The settlement was recently established and is not on the Informal Settlements database. The City is looking into this.**

### **Quote 02:**

*It is very difficult. First of all, we don't have water. We are struggling to get water. There was a water truck that used to come here. It doesn't come here anymore.*

### **Specific questions around this quote (responses from Mr Booi in bold)**

Q5. Does the City of Cape Town provide water to residents by delivery on a truck?

Q6. Following on from this, could the City of Cape Town confirm whether this still happens and what the frequency of water deliveries are?

**No response received.**

**Quote 03:**

*What we want to achieve, firstly the City of Cape Town says that this is a place prone to flooding, that there is a river passing through here and that this is not a place for people to stay in. But there are no documents that the City of Cape Town has provided as proof. But we just hear this as a rumour.*

**Specific questions around this quote (responses from Mr Booie in bold)**

Q7. Has the City of Cape Town suggested that the area where residents of Qandu-Qandu live is not fit for living/housing? If so, are there documents to verify this and the reasoning behind this suggestion?

**The City cannot allow land to be invaded. The large number of orchestrated unlawful occupations in Cape Town should be great cause for alarm as it has enormous impacts on the municipality and local communities. The opportunity cost of illegal occupation is incredibly high. To name several examples:**

- **Delays in vital housing and infrastructure projects due to illegal occupation on these properties**
- **Attempts to queue-jump the housing list or illegally occupy newly built units ahead of long-deserving residents**
- **Pollution of water systems due to uncontrolled growth**
- **Loss of investments and economic potential due to invaded private property**
- **Invasion of private land that cannot be serviced by the City**
- **Unlawful occupation that is dangerous for human occupation due to flooding, access and building stability**
- **Newly formed settlements demanding services, when they have settled illegally at own risk, and knowing there are no services on a particular piece of land**

**The City is acting to reduce the impacts of illegal occupation on our communities at large and will continue to intervene for the stability and safety of our communities.**

**Quote 04:**

*And we also working with another organisation, in order to obtain a list of the land that the City of Cape Town doesn't have plans for, over the next five years. So that we can approach them and say, "There's is this piece of that is right for us to stay in. We wanna go there."*

**Specific questions around this quote (responses from Mr Booie in bold)**

Q8. Could the City of Cape Town comment on this? How can people obtain dignified housing on land that is not ear-marked for development?

**Not all land is suitable for housing. The social consequences of are too devastating for this illegal act to be condoned. The vast majority of illegal occupations have occurred on land that the City would never have earmarked for housing. All City-owned land is earmarked for a purpose. Just because it looks vacant, does not mean it is meant for housing. Land is used as road reserves, for future community services, for initiation sites, clinics, for water and sewage pipelines to help growing communities. If everyone settles where they want to, it destabilises the entire system and jeopardises the future. Irrespective of the land use, it is illegal to occupy land or property that does not belong to you.**

**We are a growing city, and we owe it to future generations to protect land intended for service delivery, schools, housing, religious and community facilities, and we need to protect our biodiversity.**

Residents need to be registered on the City's Housing Needs Register to be considered for housing opportunities that become available. This is fair. Taking land that does not belong to you is wrong, it is illegal.

*Beneficiaries of all City housing projects are allocated in accordance with the City's Allocation Policy and the Housing Needs Register to ensure that housing opportunities are provided to qualifying applicants in a fair, transparent and equitable manner, and to prevent queue-jumping. This is very important given the acute need for housing opportunities across the metro. Without this organised system, based on first come first served, who determines then if resident A is more worthy of an opportunity or resident B? Community leaders, activist, lobby groups and political instigators of especially large-scale organised invasions, often driven by syndicates for shack-farming, do not worry about the consequences. At the end of the day, when the illegal occupation has happened, it is the occupiers and the City that must face the consequences.*

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## **QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: ALDERMAN XANTHEA LIMBERG (MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR WATER AND WASTE)**

### **Section 1 (statistics – responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

*The film describes the surveying and gathering of data by a civil society organisation to determine how many people live in Qandu-Qandu (Khayelitsha) and the kinds of services that are provided to people living in this area.*

**In general please note that service delivery challenges are linked to this settlement being established unlawfully, as a result of a land invasion.**

### **Specific questions around these data (responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

Q1. There is a suggestion that the City of Cape Town provided one chemical toilet for every 50 houses. Does the City of Cape Town have numbers for how many people live in Qandu-Qandu and how many homes there are in that area?

**There are approximately 390 chemical toilets in the area at a ratio of approximately one toilet for every 10 households. It is important to note that areas of informality are very dynamic environments, and as such the number of households may have grown since the above ratio was recorded.**

Q2. Following on from that, could the City of Cape Town confirm how many toilets were provided for each home or person?

**See above.**

Q3. There is a suggestion in the film that the City of Cape Town only provides chemical toilets to residents of Qandu-Qandu. Is this correct - what services does the City of Cape Town provide to Qandu-Qandu?

**Chemical Toilets are provided to the Qandu Qandu section. The City shares residents' preference for full flush toilets as these are cheaper to install and maintain, however it is not always possible to install flush toilets for various reasons, including a high water table.**

### **Quote 01:**

*We fought that and we are now staying here, but the City of Cape Town doesn't acknowledge us as existing people. We don't even exist on the map.*

### **Specific questions around this quote (responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

Q4. Is Qandu-Qandu included in the City of Cape Town's mapping of Cape Town, and thus included in plans for service delivery? If so, would it be possible to see that map?

**No response received.**

**Quote 02:**

*It is very difficult. First of all, we don't have water. We are struggling to get water. There was a water truck that used to come here. It doesn't come here anymore.*

**Specific questions around this quote (responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

Q5. Does the City of Cape Town provide water to residents by delivery on a truck?

**As part of the COVID-19 response, the City provides water via water trucks to 173 settlements across the city. Qandu-Qandu is one of the settlements where the City provides this service. It was initiated as a response measure to the COVID-19 pandemic and is of a temporary nature.**

Q6. Following on from this, could the City of Cape Town confirm whether this still happens and what the frequency of water deliveries are?

**Yes, the City provides water by means of water trucks every second day.**

**Quote 03:**

*What we want to achieve, firstly the City of Cape Town says that this is a place prone to flooding, that there is a river passing through here and that this is not a place for people to stay in. But there are no documents that the City of Cape Town has provided as proof. But we just hear this as a rumour.*

**Specific questions around this quote (responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

Q7. Has the City of Cape Town suggested that the area where residents of Qandu-Qandu live is not fit for living/housing? If so, are there documents to verify this and the reasoning behind this suggestion?

**No response received.**

**Quote 04:**

*And we also working with another organisation, in order to obtain a list of the land that the City of Cape Town doesn't have plans for, over the next five years. So that we can approach them and say, "There's is this piece of that is right for us to stay in. We wanna go there."*

**Specific questions around this quote (responses from Ms Limberg in bold)**

Q8. Could the City of Cape Town comment on this? How can people obtain dignified housing on land that is not ear-marked for development?

**No response received.**