



NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Latiefa Fagodien, 79, says she just wants her house to be a 'bit better'. PICTURE: MICHAEL WALKER

Ouma's dream on track as city comes to party

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A BO-KAAP pensioner living in a derelict house is set to have a fairy tale ending to her story, with the City of Cape Town not only offering to renovate her house with its crumbling masonry, but yesterday she also received news she would receive the title deed to the property from the council.

Latiefa Fagodien's story was brought to light by the Cape Argus in March.

With her house in Bo-Kaap in a poor state of repair, the City of Cape Town, which had earlier issued a stop works order to a builder who had offered to renovate her house after reading the article, has undertaken to do the work itself.

The appalling conditions in the Chiappini Street house that Fagodien, 79, was renting from the council for R10.60 a month were first exposed by the Bo-Kaap Civic Association's Yusuf Safudien.

But when builder Farouk Ryklief from University Estate tried to assist by starting renovations at his own cost, he was instructed by the city to stop work, and threatened that his tools would be confiscated by law enforcement.

Ryklief told the Cape Argus he had even considered doing the work at night because he couldn't stand the thought of her having to spend a minute more like that. The house is situated at the entrance to the Prayer Quarry, one of three historic Bo-Kaap quarries.

Yesterday, Benedicta van Minnen, the city's Mayco member for human settle-

ments, said the city's contractor had started with work on the structural repairs on Wednesday. "Work is under way and if all goes according to plan, it is expected to be completed by the end of the month," she said.

But, so far, all that has been done is that the kitchen area has been boarded up and a padlock placed on the front door.

Fagodien said some men from the city had arrived and told her to move her stuff out of the kitchen. "I had to get the neighbour's child to help me." It was then boarded up and she is not sure when she will have access to it again.

"I told them I would rather Farouk did the work," Ryklief said he would have been finished by now. He said his main concern with the front door being padlocked was that it created a fire hazard.

The only door to the outside now leads

from the kitchen. "But if there is a fire in the kitchen, she could be trapped in her room."

Ward councillor Dave Bryant said he had met with the heritage management officials and Ryklief, and they had "managed to find a way forward". He said there had been a mix-up between the structural renovations and regular repairs and maintenance.

"Mrs Fagodien and Mr Ryklief were well within their rights to go ahead with the work that was done."

Bryant said the city would now be doing the structural repairs based on their engineer's report, including on a wall that could date back to the 1700s that was built using Robben Island slate.

Van Minnen said the property was one of around 20 similar properties in the area, expropriated by the then-council under the Slums Act of 1934.

New hospital gets to heart of the matter



LIFESAVER: Nurse and ICU manager Ernest Coert with the multimillion rand cardiac catheterisation lab – 'this place saves lives'.

PICTURE: CINDY WAXA

Tokai facility boasts state-of-the-art cardiac catheterisation lab

IF YOU live in the southern suburbs and suffer a heart attack, your chances of surviving it just got better. Melomed private hospital group has opened a new hospital in Tokai, offering the only cardiac intervention unit in the southern suburbs.

The hospital cost just shy of R400 million, offers 148 beds and four operating theatres, with extra theatres for obstetrics and endoscopy.

Spokesman Randal Pedro said the state-of-the-art cardiac catheterisation laboratory, or "cath lab", would bring survival much closer to those living in the south.

"It's called the Golden Hour," he said. "You only have so much time once you have

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a heart attack to perform an intervention."

For southern suburbs residents, the closest cath lab options for heart attack victims were Groote Schuur or Vincent Pallotti – a dangerously long drive if you suffered a heart attack in Simon's Town.

"It's about accessibility," Pedro said. "We're trying to bring healthcare within reach to those on this side of the valley."

The cath lab boasts a multi-million rand machine that performs angiograms – a kind

of X-ray that allows doctors to see blood flow and locate clots in the blood vessels.

Once a blockage is located, the doctor can intervene in a number of ways, such as placing a stent, immediately, in the cath lab.

ICU manager and professional nurse Ernest Coert has worked in Melomed hospitals for 15 years.

"This is state-of-the-art. You're looking at millions," he said of the new cath lab. "This place saves lives, I'm telling you."

The hospital has a few other nifty features that were designed after years of experience in Melomed's other facilities.

In a first for South Africa, patient details are displayed on an iPad above the ward beds, instead of a whiteboard or file.

There is also free wi-fi throughout the building.

The private wards are spacious enough to be mistaken for hotel rooms, with en-suite bathrooms to boot.

Given the country's high burden of infectious disease combined with HIV/Aids which weakens the immune system, Melomed Tokai has built specialised isolation units with sluices in between the wards to prevent the spread of infection.

Melomed chairman Ebrahim Bhorat cut the ribbon yesterday and was handed the keys

Pending the Department of Health's final inspection, the hospital plans to admit its first patients in the next two weeks.

DA seeks outright majority in Oudtshoorn

Warda Meyer

WITH a mix of new and current councillors on their candidate lists for the Oudtshoorn Municipality, the DA says it has the right team to take an outright majority during the upcoming local government elections in August.

Oudtshoorn Municipality has been in a dysfunctional state for several years, with the local government authority eventually being placed under administration in July after an ongoing power struggle between the ANC, its coalition partners and the DA.

Recently, a forensic investigation into the municipality uncovered 132 contraventions, including eight cases of fraud and two of corruption. Topping the party's proportional representation lists in Oudtshoorn is the newcomer and mayoral candidate Colan Sylvester, followed by Nolunthando Bessie, Wessie van der Westhuizen, Chris MacPherson and Christine Muller.

Sylvester, 52, a primary school principal, said he had watched the political infighting, corruption and lack of service delivery unfold and was ready to roll up his sleeves to ensure that the municipality is returned to its former glory.

"Oudtshoorn can still be saved, but we need people to rally and trust in the DA's track record of good governance. I believe I can overcome the challenges that the municipality poses," he said.

Also appearing on the DA's ward lists are three of the five rogue ANC councillors who defected to the DA in 2013 in a bid to oust the ANC's Oudtshoorn mayor, his deputy and speaker.

The former ANC members include Pieter Luiters, who earlier won a crucial by-election for the DA in Oudtshoorn, Hendrik Botha and Hendrik Ruiters, who all made the DA's lists.

Jaco Londt, the DA's chairman of the East Region, conceded that there was some degree of unhappiness regarding the party's candidate selection, but added that this was the nature of politics.

Regarding the former ANC members, Londt said Piet Luiters had proved himself as an effective councillor.

Londt said no political party had ever won an outright majority in Oudtshoorn.

Controversial sale of Tafelberg school put on hold

THE IMPENDING sale of the former Tafelberg Remedial High School in Sea Point has again been put on hold, this time by an order of court.

According to the agreement reached between parties yesterday, the Western Cape government agreed to re-advertise its intention to sell the school buildings to the Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School for R135 million within the next 10 days.

A public comment period of 21 days will then follow.

Within one month of the close of the commentary period, the provincial cabinet will have to inform applicants whether or not it still plans to proceed with the sale.

Applicants will then have two months to return to court if they are not satisfied with the new decision.

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The applicants, backed by the Reclaim the City movement and the Ndifuna Ukwazi Law Centre, approached the Western Cape High Court last month for an urgent interdict to stop the sale, arguing that provincial government should use the property for affordable housing instead.

The matter was postponed to allow parties to reach an agreement.

"To us this is a big, big victory. The time is now to put pressure on government to get this land," said Thozama Adonisi, the first applicant in the case.

Adonisi, a hospital care worker, detailed her struggles of trying to find suitable accommodation in Sea Point where she has lived and worked since 1985, in an affidavit to the court.

Another applicant, Sharone Daniels, said she spent four hours a day travelling to and from work in the city.

"If we have housing, then we have some kind of stability," she said.

The Tafelberg property has been vacant since 2010, when the school was relocated to Bothasig.

It was one of four sites earmarked by the department in 2014, to be sold under its Regeneration Programme.

In her newsletter yesterday, Premier Helen Zille said her government was committed to re-opening the Tafelberg sale

process.

"We are committed to ensuring that anyone who seeks an opportunity for comment should be able to have it taken into account, before the provincial government makes a rational decision about how best to utilise its assets to the best advantage of citizens," she said.

Ndifuna Ukwazi had argued that the notice issued by the department of public works in December 2015 informing the public of the sale of the site, was flawed and that no meaningful public participation had taken place.

"Provincial government failed to comply with the legal requirements and with those who have a legitimate interest in the land," said Ndifuna Ukwazi's lawyer, Mandisa Shandu.

Too late for Classification

**GRESHOFF
ELS**

Passed away peacefully at her home on May 1 aged 93. Lovingly remembered by her family and all who knew her.

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