



Meadow Point is one of the land regularisation projects.

Photo by Phumzile Twabu

By PHUMZILE TWABU

KASI people will own land.

That's the message from The Joburg Property Company.

According to Brian Mahlangu, of the property company, the process involves releasing land owned by the City of Joburg that the council does not have any use for.

The project will first run a property audit of all council owned land and property. Then the land will be released to legitimate beneficiaries.

Mahlangu said project targets include the Jabulani CBD, Orlando Ekhaya and Meadow Point. "Property will be released to the public through tendering. Some will be withheld for public sector investment."

Mahlangu added that the project would support sustainable economic growth through private sector investment.

He said the development would increase the rates, taxes and service repayment base of Joburg and pay for service delivery to the poor.

But some people *SunSoweto* spoke with were not impressed. "It's empowering the already rich," said Zolile Khumalo (49) from Emdeni who runs a home improvement business.

"That land will probably be bought by big businesses who are not from Soweto. The sad part is that these businesses take money out of Soweto," Zolile added.

Elias Mange, a community leader from Phase 2 in Braamfischer, said the move is meant to fool Sowetans into thinking that the council is doing something for them.

He said: "The council should be looking into the problems of informal traders – such as finding suitable trading areas for them."

