

# De Lille promises water, lights and sanitation to shack dwellers

## Kwanele Butana

THE City of Cape Town formalised its "longstanding" partnership with the Informal Settlement Network (ISN) yesterday by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with it and its sister Community Organisation Resource Centre.

Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille signed in front of a big crowd of residents at an open field in Vygieskraal Informal Settlement, Athlone.

De Lille said the city was determined to build a more caring and inclusive city as Cape Town was a home to all.

There are more than 220 informal settlements in the city which De Lille attributed to the city being unable to build on privately-owned land.

She said extensive electrification, water and sanitation programmes would be rolled out later this year and that

backyarders would also benefit while they awaited their houses.

She promised to start an extended public works programme in Vygieskraal where local people would be employed to clean the area.

Councillor Ernest Sonnenberg, mayco member for human settlements, said the city and ISN had been co-operating for a long time.

Sonnenberg said the co-operation had resulted in many developments being carried out jointly, such as the re-blocking of some areas in Philippi.

"We are looking forward to continuing the partnership."

Sonnenberg said the re-blocking of Vygieskraal meant communal spaces would be opened up and service vehicles would be able to access all parts of the area in the event of fires and floods.

He handed out ID cards

confirming Vygieskraal resident status of those enumerated by ISN.

The card shows the holder's personal details and photo, number of people living in the shack and the card's date of issue.

ISN leader in the Western Cape, Mzwanele Zulu, said some informal settlements in the Cape Town metro did not have water and sanitation while others had inadequate services, such as bucket toilets. Zulu said he hoped the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding would ensure the delivery of basic services.

"There are 22 pilot projects where community members have prepared their informal settlements for upgrading by enumerating households in their areas," he said.

"We need full support from the city. We need human and financial resources."

*kwanele.butana@inl.co.za*