

Media Release by NHBRC (2011/06/29)

NHBRC guarantees that action will be taken regarding allegations

Johannesburg, 29 June 2011 - Following the announcement by Human Settlements Minister, Tokyo Sexwale, regarding an alleged case of conflict of interest and corruption at the NHBRC, the Council of the NHBRC is in the process of appointing independent auditors to investigate the allegations.

NHBRC chairperson Rev. Dr. Vukile Mehana said that the Council is aware of the Minister's concerns. "The NHBRC regards these allegations as being extremely serious and an independent investigation will be conducted and our future actions will be determined by the findings of the investigations", he said.

In the light of this, the Chairperson of Council has granted a leave of absence to the CEO, Mr. Siphon Mashinini with immediate effect, while the investigation takes place pending future actions which may be determined by the findings of the investigations.

Dr. Jeffry Mahachi, NHBRC Executive Manager: Technical and Information Technology, has been appointed by the Council as the Acting CEO, with the Chairperson playing a more visible oversight role during this period.

The Council has complete confidence in Dr. Mahachi, a Civil Engineer with more than 10 years with the NHBRC. "We want to assure all stakeholders that under Dr. Mahachi's leadership and management, the NHBRC will continue to perform its function of protecting the interest of housing consumers, and regulating the home building industry unfettered", the Chairperson said

Ms. Vanessa Somiah remains on special leave of absence until internal investigations by the NHBRC and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) have been completed. Ms. Laurene Less, NHBRC Executive Manager: Corporate Services, will take on the roles and responsibilities of Ms Somiah until further notice.

The NHBRC was established under the Housing Consumer Protection Measures Act to protect the interest of housing consumers and to regulate the home building industry.

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