



PHYSICAL ADDRESS: NO 01 AGATHA STREET

Postal Address: P O Box 24, Tzaneen, 0850

Website: www.greatertzaneen.gov.za

Telephone Number: 015 307 8000

24-Hour Call Centre 015 307 8190 - 082 679 0720

Anti-fraud and Corruption Hotline: 0800 44 66 44

WhatsApp line: 082 679 0794

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 SEPTEMBER 2025

DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON MUNICIPAL LAND

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality, acting on an order of the High Court of South Africa, Limpopo Division, Polokwane, carried out the demolition of structures illegally erected on Erf 1018, Dan Extension 2, Portions 25 and 28 of the Farm Mohlaba's Location 567LT, on Monday, 15 September 2025.

In total, the Municipality removed:

- **65 houses**
- **58 fenced-off stands with poles and wire**
- **37 shacks**

The Municipality first obtained an interim court order on 15 December 2022, which was opposed by Mr. Mogale Joseph Mokgoloboto, the first respondent. A final court order was subsequently granted on 12 June 2025.

On 20 August 2025, a day before the scheduled execution, Mr. Mokgoloboto obtained a court interdict preventing the Sheriff of the Court and the Municipality from carrying out the demolition. The interdict had a return date of 26 August 2025, but it was dismissed with costs on 29 August 2025, clearing all legal hurdles for the execution of the final order.

As a Municipality, we sympathize with those affected by the demolitions. These decisions are never taken lightly. However, it is important to emphasize that repeated warnings were issued prior to any construction or occupation, including:

- Public notices
- Loud-hailing campaigns
- Pamphlet distribution
- A warning board erected on-site (which was later vandalized)
- Appointment of a 24-hour security which was overpowered

Despite these warnings, illegal occupation and construction continued.



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This was not the first intervention. On 26 February 2024, the Municipality executed the earlier interim order through the Sheriff of the Court. At that time, several structures, including a 4x2 hector brick structure and two houses, were demolished. Yet, despite these actions, illegal construction continued in disregard of court orders.

The land in question is earmarked for formal township establishment, and the process is already at an advanced stage with a layout in place approved by the Municipal Planning Tribunal.

Failure to act against illegal occupation poses serious risks, including:

- Uncontrolled and unsafe settlement growth
- Service delivery disruptions
- Safety hazards to occupants and neighbors
- Fraudulent land sales and exploitation of unsuspecting residents

By enforcing the law, the Municipality is safeguarding orderly development and protecting legitimate landowners and residents.

Clearing the Confusion

The Municipality wishes to clarify that the demolition took place on Erf 1018, Dan Extension 2, Portions 25 and 28 of the Farm Mohlaba's Location 567LT, and not on Farm Sivhurali 560LT, as alleged by the respondent.

Verify Before You Buy

We urge all prospective property buyers to verify ownership with the Municipality before making any purchase. This will protect buyers from fraudulent transactions and prevent unlawful occupation of municipal land.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Members of the media who require additional information or interviews can contact Ms. Vutivi Makhubele via SMS, WhatsApp, or phone call at **072 604 6169**.

Neville Ndlala – Head of Communications & Marketing Services

Phone: 015 307 8489 - Mobile: **073 076 2125**

Email: neville.ndlala@tzaneen.gov.za

