

TITLE OF PAPER: Urban renewal and urban empowerment for disadvantaged communities in the Eastern Cape Province: a case study.

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ABSTRACT:

This paper is a summary of an Urban Renewal study that was undertaken by the two presenters for the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Council in the Motherwell urban area. Motherwell was identified by Presidential Task Team as one of four previously disadvantaged urban areas in South Africa to undergo urban renewal and urban empowerment. An Urban Renewal Programme is used in conjunction with the country's Social Development Programme in order to address the following questions which relate to urban townships:

- 1 What are the available facilities for urban renewal and empowerment?
- 2 Why are these facilities there?
- 3 How can these facilities be used for urban renewal and empowerment?
- 4 What are the inadequacies to be addressed in order to foster urban empowerment in the Motherwell urban area?

The main aim of urban renewal and empowerment is to address the spatial aspects of urban problems such as poverty, unemployment, crime, congestion and the general lack of infrastructure, especially the lack of health, housing and basic social services. The main thrust of this study was four-fold, namely:

- a) To recognize the role played by market forces in the development of the Motherwell urban area;
- b) To establish current land use within the Motherwell urban area;
- c) To identify the spatial aspects of poverty and housing needs within the Motherwell urban area;  
and
- d) To recognize initiatives already undertaken and still required from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Council, as well as the Eastern Cape provincial government and National government in terms of programmes and funding for urban renewal and empowerment within the Motherwell urban area.

The results of the completed questionnaires and workshops held with stakeholders from the Motherwell community, including political and social leaders, are outlined in the paper to be presented at the conference. The main aspects covered in the questionnaire include: general demographic characteristics

of the residents; household and infrastructural characteristics of the Motherwell community; the structural and social capital available; as well as a rating of the availability and accessibility of municipal services to the residents of Motherwell. In addition to these aspects covered in the questionnaire, stakeholders also voiced their opinions regarding urban renewal and empowerment in the township.

Based on the results of this study, various strategic recommendations were proposed to the Council in order to facilitate urban renewal and empowerment in the Motherwell urban area. The main findings and recommendations are discussed in detail in the paper.