

# NEWSLETTER

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## STILL WAITING: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HOUSING QUEUE

Brett Herron, a member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, recently exposed the truth behind the housing "waiting list", and it's devastating. Some people have been on the list for over 60 years. Many have died while waiting for years to receive a home. Even with nearly 700,000 households in the Western Cape needing homes, the province only built 4,377 units last year. At this rate, it would take over 150 years to clear the current backlog, and this is without taking into account that new people join the backlog every day.



FIGURE 2: OUTSIDE OF A HOME BEING AUCTIONED NEAR DISTRICT SIX



FIGURE 1: INSIDE OF A HOME UP FOR AUCTION NEAR DISTRICT SIX

This isn't just a slow delivery of homes from the government; it's a system that prioritizes politically "safe" developments over actual need, ignores communities in crisis, and loses hundreds of millions in unspent housing funds. People are stuck in unsafe, overcrowded living conditions, waiting for homes that may never come.

At The Housing Assembly, we know the housing crisis isn't a technical glitch; it's a political choice. During a recent visit to the areas surrounding District Six, we came across homes with auction signs on them, such as the one seen in Figure 2. Some of these homes are in poor condition, such as the home depicted

in Figure 1, but could be renovated by the government to house some of the families on the backlog. Additionally, there are also homes that are in livable condition and could soon provide a family with a spacious and comfortable home, such as the one depicted in Figure 3.

Instead, these homes are being sold off to the highest bidder, reinforcing the idea that housing is a commodity, rather than a human right. When the government fails to invest in community-centered housing solutions, it sends a message: profit matters more than people. That's why The Housing Assembly raises the question: "Who is the government working for?" We believe these homes should be used to address the crisis, not deepen it. It is time for the people of Cape Town to speak up against these inequalities and push the government to work for the people, not for profit.



*FIGURE 3: LIVABLE HOME UP FOR AUCTION IN DISTRICT SIX*