

# CBD to get middle-class housing project

Ron Sibiyi

An open site previously used as a hub for prostitution in the city centre is under development to provide homes to about 2 000 middle class people.

Member of the mayoral committee for housing and sustainable human settlement development, Joshua Ngonyama, turned the sod on Thursday for the first Yeast City Housing's flagship project on the corner of Kgosi Mampuru and Johannes Ramokgoase streets.

**“ There used to be a lot of prostitution, illegal car mechanics and taxi operators who were using the site for their taxis.”**

Thembelihle Village, which will cost more than R230 million, will have 733 rental units upon completion at the beginning of 2016. Thembelihle appropriately means “Good Hope” in Zulu.

Ngonyama, said: “There used to be a lot of prostitution, illegal car mechanics and taxi operators who were using the site for their taxis.” The project would provide homes to people at a relatively low rental agreement. It seeks to bring relief to middle-class income earners who did not qualify for reconstruction and development programme houses.

Ngonyama said the project would be followed by new developments at Schubart Park, Kruger Park and Marabastad.



Joshua Ngonyama (right) at the sod-turning ceremony with other major players in the housing project, Dewalt Koekemoer (left) and Stephan de Beer.

It is the first social housing project of this scale in central Pretoria for decades. It includes retail and office space, social amenities and on-site parking to form a

unique habitat for the future community of more than 2 000 people.

Yeast City Housing works with the Tshwane metro, the department of human

settlements, the social housing regulatory authority, the Gauteng partnership fund and the National Housing Finance Corporation.