

# We will never allow houses to be built on our grounds

**BY CANNEDY NETSHITUNGULU**

WESTBURY is synonymous for all the wrong reasons, recently 3 year old Luke Tibbetts from Westbury was sitting on his mother's lap at the back of a vehicle when a stray bullet shot him in the head in a suspected gang related-incident. Political leaders strongly condemned the shooting whilst community members were calling for harsh penalties to those who commit crime against children.

Now, Westbury community members are confused about the allegations that on two of their grounds, the Oval and Open grounds, government is planning to build houses. Community members say if this is true it means that the government is not willing to help them to fight corruption. The Oval and Open grounds has been the home of soccer fanatics and soccer players and has also produced some of the best players in our country namely, Steven Pienaar, Keagan Dolly to name but a few.

Zico explains, "The sport facilities are an outlet for all young children to develop their skills and to keep them out of the streets. If they build houses here where will all these kids go to?"

Zico said there are leaders who lack vision, "People without vision that are so-called leaders will just create a bigger problem of gangsterism because all these kids will go back to the streets. We don't agree with the vision of these so called leaders to build houses on our grounds. The level of crime will increase and we don't want that. They must do proper consultation with the community members

and Joe West Local Football Association".

He adds, "We are not against the development but if they want to build houses in Westbury, they must identify another place.

These soccer fields has produced players like Steven Pienaar of Everton and Keagan Dolly of Ajax Cape Town. If we are talking development they must do it properly and holistically. They should do a feasibility study before they can decide to build houses without thinking of the social consequences of the kids".

When Ward 82 Councillor, Susan Stewart, was contacted for comment she said that those two grounds does not fall under her jurisdiction and she is not at liberty to comment on the issues of development, however she said that the city has draft plans that have not been approved yet which does not include the Oval and Open grounds. Ward 69 Councillor, Katja Naumann was not reachable for comment.



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"We are grateful for the trust that our

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