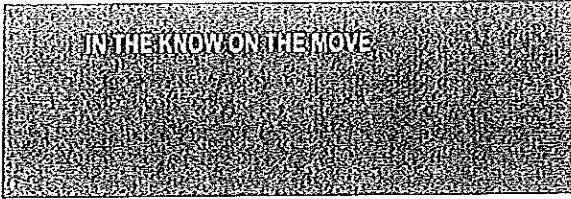


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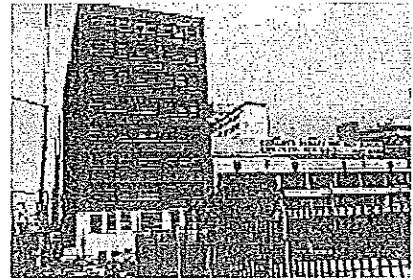
## Homes for 2000 Zimbabweans

06 July 2009  
Katlego Moeng

### Renovated Rissik Street building to house refugees

A building provided by the City of Johannesburg to eventually house about 2000 Zimbabweans in and around the Central Methodist Church will be ready in about nine days.

But despite this Metro Police have bent to pressure from Johannesburg high court lawyers who have been complaining about the littering around the court.



NEW HOME: A city-owned building in central Johannesburg has been renovated for Zimbabwean to live in. PHOTO: ANTONIO MUCHAVE

About 500 people around the high court and church were arrested for violating city by-laws, including loitering, littering and public indecency.

"Why did they do this in the face of the city making a building available to alleviate the pressure on the streets?" said the church's Bishop Paul Verryn.

For months the church has been at odds with business owners in the vicinity because of the hundreds of people who sleep on the street.

In May Gauteng's department of local government spokesperson for the relocation of Zimbabweans, Daniel Ramarumo, said the government would move people into a renovated building by mid June, a deadline has been missed.

City of Johannesburg spokesperson Nthati Modingoane said: "A city-owned building was refurbished by the Johannesburg Development Agency and phase one will be completed next week. It will accommodate 300 people and 700 people will be accommodated in phase 2."

"The UN Development Programme is due to relocate a further 150 refugees to NGO shelters," he said.

Meanwhile, Johannesburg Metro Police said that they would continue the blitz. "There are laws to be enforced," said spokesperson Edna Mamonyane.

She said the blitz was done at the order of a high court judge and about 500 people had been held.

The women and children were released and 254 men kept in custody.

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