

# **PARTICIPATORY PLANNING FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING IN FREEDOM SQUARE, GOBABIS**

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## **Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN),**

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# SECTION 1

## Stepping Stones towards Settlement Upgrading

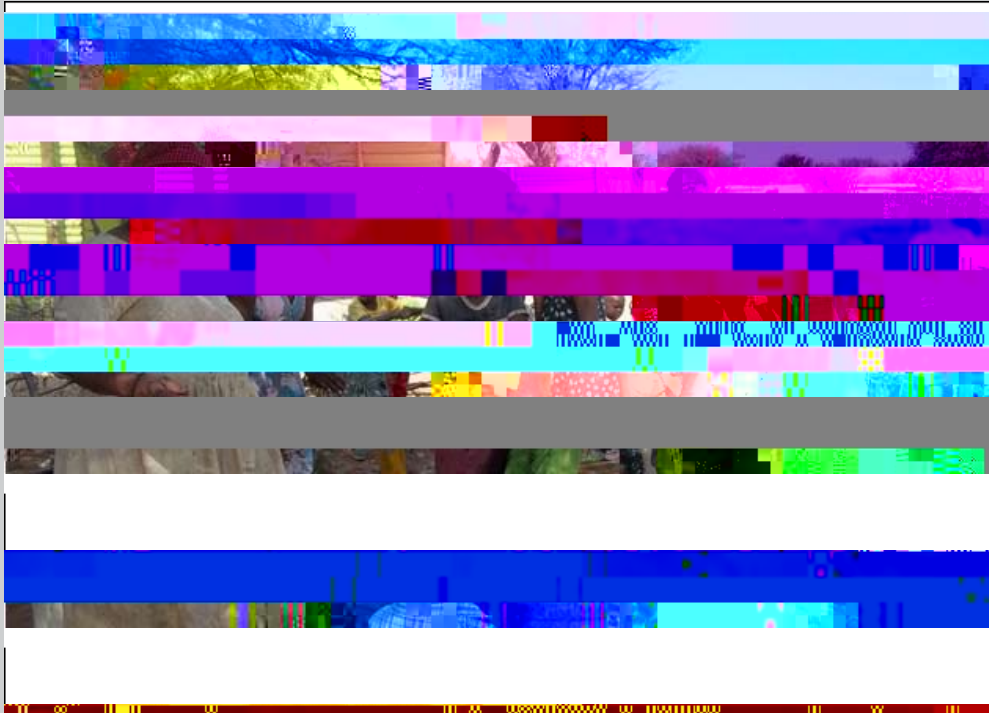
The planning of the Freedom Square informal settlement was preceded by three very important rituals, which did not form part of the planning studios as such, but were critical to building bridges for the community and Local Authority to reach a common understanding of the way forward. These include –

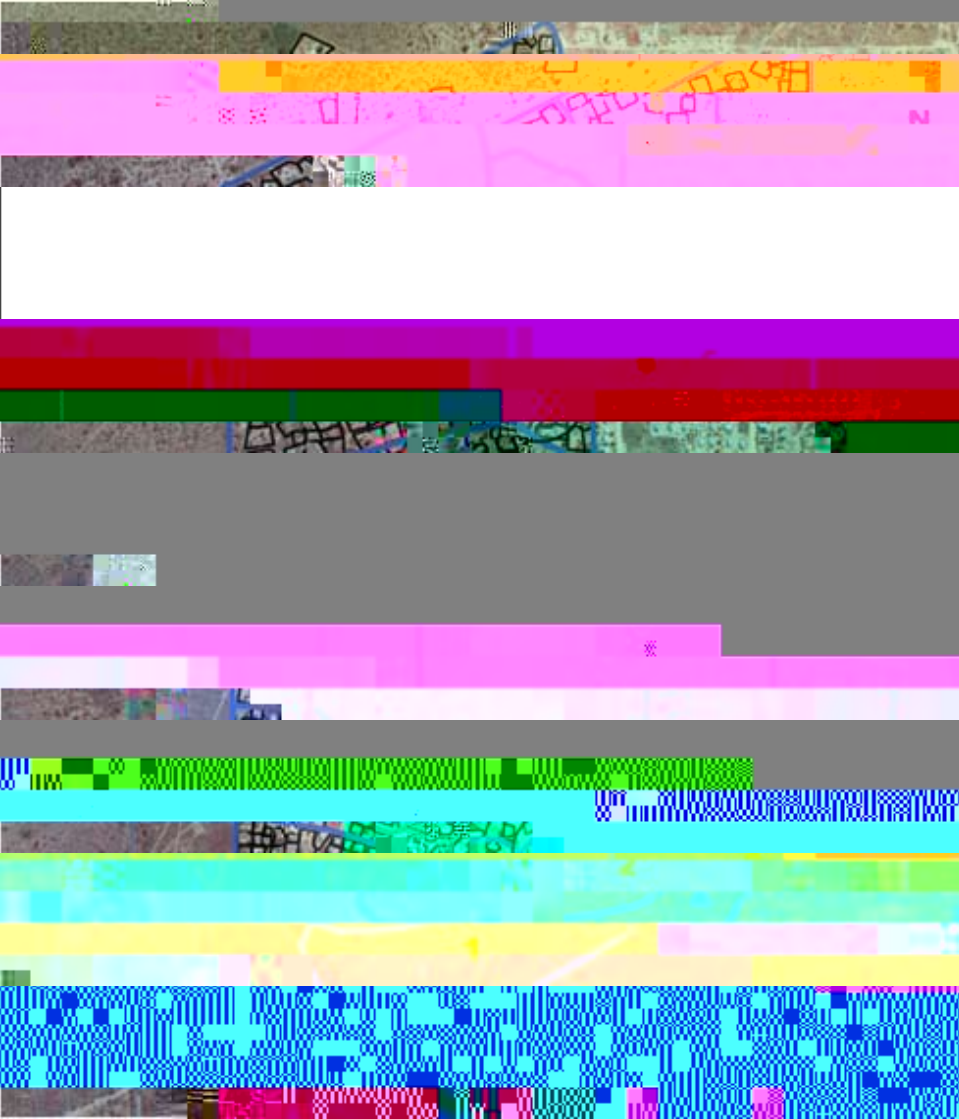
- **Enumerations:** Knowing Your Settlement – the Community Pand Information Programme (CLIP) which enables the community to come together to discuss their needs and the outcome of their enumeration
- **Efh**
  -





The priority needs of the community reflect the lack of sufficient services in the community. Water was prioritized both as the first and second most important development needs, while the toilets were identified as the third development priority.





From the total households enumerated, 52% are employed and 43% unemployed, with 5 % not having answered the question on employment. The average monthly income was NAD 295.46

Freedom Square enumeration block boundaries and communal taps





What happens to your refuse?

Exploring and learning



# SECTION 2

The Studios - Learning and Implementing Participatory











## Impact of the First Studio





group of town planning students from the Polytechnic of Namibia that participated in the first studio during September 2013, now doing layout planning as third year town planning students. The studeg







**Urban agriculture** was raised by Block 8 and 9 on the northern edge of settlement and Block 1 and 2 in the south western corner, when considering the planning for the establishment of community gardens, in response to the natural flow of water in the settlement. In Block 9 this will act as a catchment area for water flowing from the high part of the settlement located on the foot of the hill, and in Block 1 & 2 the garden will be located on the lower side of the settlement prone to flooding. The produce from the garden will be used to feed the elderly and the orphans in the settlement.

**The location of shebeens** in the settlement caused heated debates covering aspects of registration, ongoing



**The second studio was concluded on Monday** in the presence of various dignitaries, including the Ambassador to Spain, Regional and Local Authority Councillors, while the keynote address of the Deputy



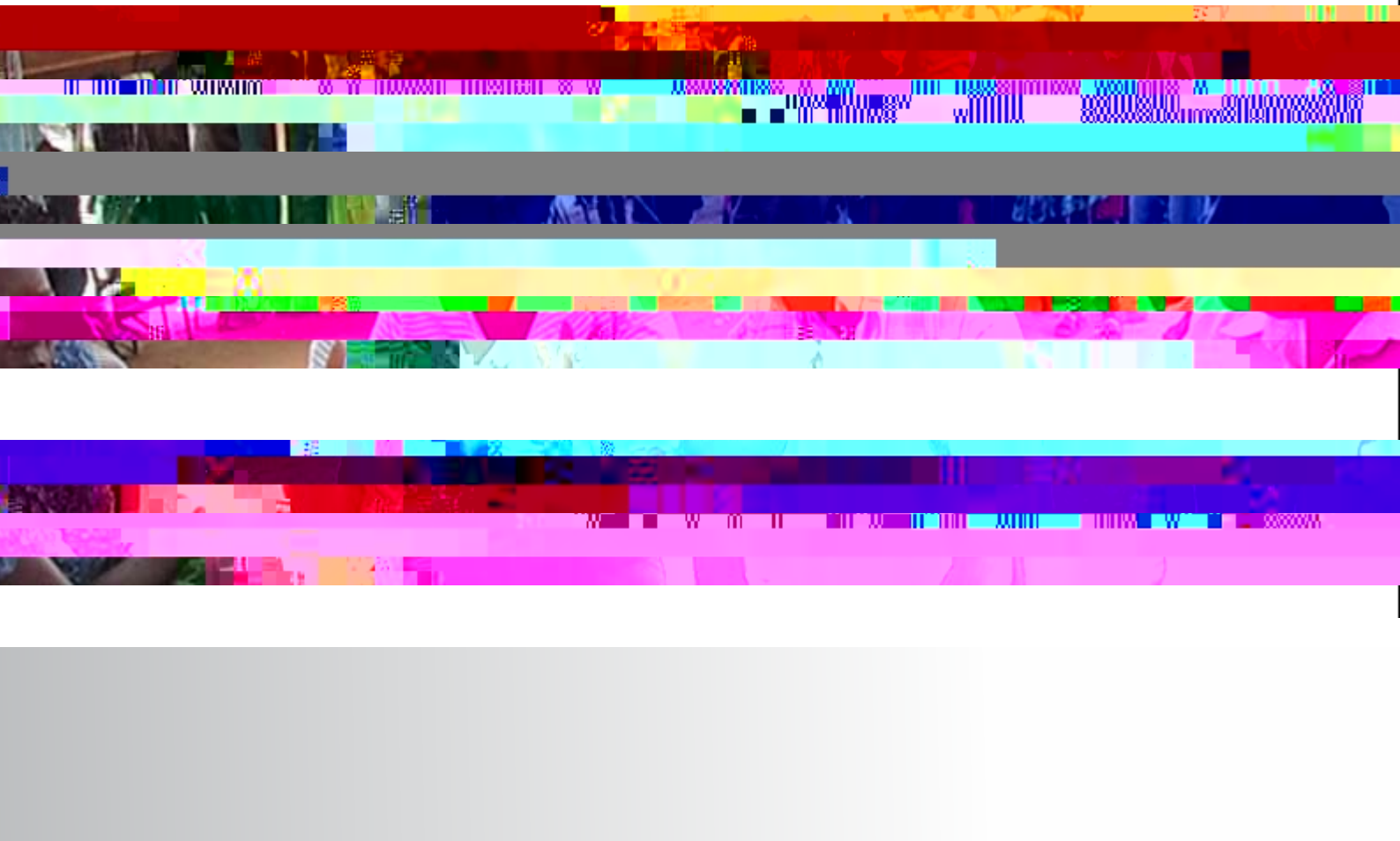


# SECTION 3

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The common planning approach is the norm with local authorities, which is to inform the community of their plans for developments in settlements, consultants are hired and plans are drawn up. This in the end side-lines community inputs and their dreams or desires and their advice on how they can assist. Power is placed in the hands of the local authority and residents usually have to comply. Studios on the other hand, are giving life to the bottom up planning process which ensures that community needs are taken into consideration. The ideas of the plan comes from the bottom of the planning process, from the community that is being planned, and goes to the top, to the local authority and government who in turn have to approve the plans. Studios also give a clear look into the community's abilities and willingness to bring change to the settlement. In Freedom Square this







“The priority of my office is to support housing through programmes such as the Mass Housing Development Program and Gobabis was selected as one of the 27 towns for the pilot project of mass housing. Community participation and the community preparing for the upgrading of the settlement is very important, so funds are available from Goerrough



Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) & Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG)