SERI LAUNCHES NEW GUIDE ON RELOCATIONS TO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

On Thursday 20 July 2017 at 8:30 to 10:30, the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI) will launch its latest resource guide, entitled “Relocating to Alternative Accommodation: Legal and Practical Guidelines”.

The Constitution provides that no one may be evicted from their home without a court order made after considering all the relevant circumstances, and that no legislation may permit arbitrary evictions. The South African courts have found that this provision requires the government to provide alternative housing to unlawful occupiers who would become homeless as a result of an eviction. This means that planning for relocations has become an important part of the work of legal practitioners and government officials dealing with housing.

Relocations have the potential to severely disrupt peoples’ lives and negatively impact their livelihoods, community relations and sense of security. To make sure this doesn’t happen, the relocation process should be carefully planned, well-run and participatory.

SERI has developed these guidelines to assist those involved in the relocation process to navigate the complexities involved in carrying out a relocation. The guidelines present an approach to relocations based on SERI’s experience in planning for and managing relocations to alternative housing and draw on the experiences of international and national organisations and development agencies. The guidelines offer practical guidance on how to ensure that relocations are carried out in a way that respects the constitutional rights of the people being relocated.

The launch will take place on at SERI’s Conference Room on the 6th Floor of the Aspern Building, 54 De Korte Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg. Speakers at the launch will include Lauren Royston (SERI senior associate) and Lwazi Mtshiyo (SERI candidate attorney).

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