

TITLE: Bylaw breach sees inquiry into Usindiso fire postponed

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Article Summary

The commission of inquiry into the Usindiso building fire has been postponed due to a bylaw breach. The designated venue for the commission was found to be non-compliant with the City of Johannesburg's bylaws, leading to the need to secure a new venue. The specific details of the bylaw breach were not clarified. The commission is chaired by retired judge Sisi Khampepe and is falling behind schedule, with the submission of the first report expected before or on December 30. Last week, the commission heard testimonies about the fire, including the city's response and the dangerous conditions in the building.

Article Analysis

1. Does the article give a political economy contextual analysis of the event?

Based on the information provided in the article, there is no explicit mention of a political economy contextual analysis of the event. However, this information may be present in other articles or reports related to the Usindiso building fire.

2. What according to the article, is/are the root cause/s of the event?

The article does not explicitly state the root cause/s of the event. It provides information about the lack of fire safety measures and blocked access points in the hijacked building, but does not delve into the underlying factors that led to these conditions.

3. Does the article present evidence of complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building?

The article does not present evidence of complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building.

4. Does the article present evidence of NGOs (like SERI) engaging with organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building, on behalf of and in the interests of their clients (i.e. the tenants)?

The article does not present evidence of NGOs like SERI engaging with organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building on behalf of the tenants.

5. Does the article present potential solutions to the occupation by tenants of a hijacked building that has degenerated into a slum?

The article does not present potential solutions to the occupation by tenants of a hijacked building that has degenerated into a slum in terms of law enforcement, economic development/social upliftment, provision of alternative accommodation, or the tenants' right to the city.

6. Does the article emphasise the conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI (and other NGOs) regarding different interpretations of the rights of tenants in terms of the law and specifically in terms of the PIE Act?

The article does not emphasize the conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI regarding different interpretations of the rights of tenants in terms of the law and specifically the PIE Act.

Critical Analysis

Overall, the article appears to be written in a relatively impartial manner, with no glaring biases or subjective language used by the author. The article provides factual information about the postponement of the commission of inquiry into the Usindiso building fire and the reasons behind it. The author includes quotes from the chairperson of the commission, retired judge Sisi Khampepe, which helps to provide a balanced view of the situation.

However, there are a few potential biases or subjective language used in the article. Firstly, when mentioning the deadline for the submission of the first report, the author states that it was "earmarked for sometime before or on December 30". The use of the word "earmarked" suggests that the deadline may not be met, which could imply a negative view of the commission's progress.

Additionally, in the paragraph mentioning the lack of fire safety measures in the building, the author uses the word "hijacked" to describe the building. While this term accurately describes the situation, it could carry some negative connotations and potentially skew the reader's perception of the building or its occupants.

Overall, the article does a decent job of presenting the information in a relatively objective manner. However, there could be some subtle biases or subjective language that may influence the reader's interpretation of the events.

Contradiction Analysis

Based on the information provided in the news article, some potential contradictions include:

1. The article states that the commission of inquiry into the Usindiso building fire has been postponed due to the venue being non-compliant with the City of Johannesburg's bylaws. However, it is not clarified what specific bylaw was breached or why the venue was deemed non-compliant.
2. The article mentions that the deadline for the submission of the first report by the commission was set for sometime before or on December 30. However, it is not clear how the commission's work falling behind due to the venue issue will affect this deadline.
3. The article states that the building where the fire occurred had no fire extinguishers or fire hoses, and some of the staircases were blocked and converted into makeshift rooms. This seems to indicate a serious lack of safety measures and potential violations of fire safety regulations. However, it is not mentioned whether these violations were known prior to the fire or if they were discovered during the commission of inquiry.

Overall, these contradictions leave some gaps in the information provided and could potentially impact the reader's understanding of the situation.