*Press Release*

*For Immediate Release*

**Transforming Urban Living: The Rise of Managed Precincts in South Africa**

*In the dynamic landscape of urban development, South Africa is witnessing a remarkable shift towards managed precincts as the future of modern living. These thoughtfully designed and carefully curated spaces are redefining the way we inhabit and experience our cities. With a strong focus on safety, sustainability, and community, experienced developer overseeing the exciting new Riverfields precinct in Kempton Park - Gideon van der Vyver – shares his views on how managed precincts are setting new standards for urban living, revolutionising the concept of a harmonious and fulfilling lifestyle.*

South Africa faces significant challenges in terms of infrastructure and essential service delivery, including power outages, water shortages, inadequate waste management, and poorly maintained public spaces. These shortcomings have led to mounting frustration among citizens, creating an urgent need for alternative solutions to address these pressing issues. According to the World Bank collection of development indicators, the urban population in South Africa accounted for 67.85% of the total population in 2021. This indicates a significant proportion of the country's population residing in urban areas adding additional pressure for urban planning to meet the needs of the population.

Managed precincts have emerged as a promising answer to these challenges, providing well-planned developments that integrate residential, commercial, and recreational spaces within a cohesive, safe, and well-maintained environment.

**Managed precincts in South Africa – already a proven recipe for success**

South Africa boasts a collection of successful managed precincts that have transformed urban landscapes and set new standards for community living. The Umhlanga Urban Improvement Precinct (UIP), established in 2015, has played a crucial role in transforming uMhlanga into a thriving and well-maintained urban hub. Focusing on safety, cleanliness, and aesthetics, the UIP has significantly enhanced the quality of life for residents and visitors. Through dedicated security patrols, efficient waste management systems, landscaping initiatives, and urban maintenance projects, the UIP has successfully reduced crime rates, improved street cleanliness, and created a more welcoming environment. Its collaborative approach, involving local stakeholders, residents, and businesses, has fostered a strong sense of community pride and ownership.

Waterfall City, a large-scale mixed-use development located between Johannesburg and Pretoria, redefines urban living with its seamless integration of residential, commercial, and retail components. Offering a holistic and sustainable lifestyle, Waterfall City provides a diverse range of residential options, convenient access to amenities, well-designed infrastructure, efficient transportation networks, and ample green spaces. Its appeal extends to businesses as well, attracting numerous corporate offices and commercial spaces, both locally and internationally.

Other prominent examples include Melrose Arch in Johannesburg, The V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, Menlyn Maine in Pretoria and Steyn City on the outskirts of Johannesburg and Century City in Cape Town. What all these developments have in common is that they serve as beacons of progress, demonstrating the potential for well-designed precincts to enhance quality of life, attract investment, and foster economic growth.

**Riverfields: managed precinct 2.0**

So, it’s no surprise then why Riverfields as the newest kid on the block precincts-wise in South Africa has opted to follow suit with the managed precinct model with the intention of trying to further improve this model. In a world where the realities of the service delivery challenges faced by municipalities are experienced daily, Riverfields, has instituted meticulous planning and efficient management of the precinct to make it an ideal place to live and work. A key factor contributing to the increased demand and rising success of this up-and-coming precinct is the emphasis on integrated urban planning, which ensures a well-balanced mix of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. Thanks to the ongoing public and private partnership developed, the precinct boasts diligently maintained infrastructure, including road networks, utilities, and public spaces, all meeting the needs of residents and businesses within the precinct.

These strategic partnerships with local authorities and service providers ensures the efficient delivery of essential services to the area. Riverfields Management Association prioritises safety and security, implementing robust measures to create a secure environment for residents. Active community engagement fosters a sense of belonging and pride among residents, further enhancing the overall living experience.

**Unlocking a brighter future**

I believe Riverfields showcases the transformative potential of a managed precinct, creating a harmonious and sustainable community where residents can thrive. We have seen time and again how successful precincts can have a significant positive impact on the local economy. They attract businesses, tourism, and investment, which leads to job creation and increased economic activity. The presence of commercial spaces and retail outlets also generates revenue for the local government through taxes and fees.

There’s no denying that managed precincts represent a transformative solution to South Africa's infrastructure and essential service challenges. With their focus on sustainability, security, and superior living environments, these precincts offer a glimpse into a brighter future and are already factoring into the decision-making process as attractive criteria for businesses and individuals looking for a home.

It is crucial for stakeholders to embrace managed precincts as catalysts for change, encouraging increased private sector involvement and government support. By working together, we can forge a path towards a more sustainable and desirable South Africa.

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**Notes to the editor:**

**About Riverfields Precinct**

Riverfields Precinct is a vibrant mixed-use development in Ekurhuleni, offering a thriving environment for families, professionals, and businesses. With ongoing construction of logistics centres and planned developments, the precinct is expanding rapidly. Over 1,000 residential units worth R2 billion have already been delivered, with more under construction and in the planning phase. The retail node is flourishing, with the Harvest Place development and future expansion plans. Riverfields Precinct is a dynamic destination, providing unmatched opportunities for growth and a vibrant lifestyle. The growth of Riverfields is truly phenomenal, with an impressive 255,000m2 of logistics and distribution centres currently under construction and an additional 450,000m2 planned for development.

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