

Blikkiesdorp

Blikkiesdorp is the nickname of a relocation camp (Symphony Way Temporary Relocation) in Delft, which is 50km away from Cape Town. It's made-up of corrugated iron shacks.

Blikkiesdorp, which is Afrikaans for "Tin Can Town", was given its name by residents because of the row-upon-row of tin-like one room structures throughout the settlement. It was built in 2007 by the City of Cape Town and contains approximately 1,600 one room structures. According to Government officials, it has cost over 30 million Rand to build. The structures have walls and roofs made of thin tin and zinc sheets. Ablution, sanitation and water are shared between four structures. Blikkiesdorp has become well-known for its high crime rate and tough living conditions. It has been called an informal settlement by City of Cape Town officials despite its formal structure being built by the Government. In response to the criticisms, the City has called Blikkiesdorp the safest informal settlement in Cape Town. It has also been compared to a concentration camp by residents and in national media. The City of Cape Town has been criticised for its role in creating Blikkiesdorp.

Blikkiesdorp has been instrumental in relocating residents evicted from elsewhere in the City. It has been called a dumping ground for unwanted and or homeless people from all over Cape Town. The evicted Symphony Way Pavement Dwellers were moved to Blikkiesdorp in October 2009 after occupying Symphony Way for almost two years.

To date, there is no health facility in Blikkiesdorp. The next clinic is about 10 km away, and is very difficult to reach without public transport. That is why HOPE Cape Town has erected a container, where the HOPE Community Health Workers, Edward Swartz and Angela Abrahams, have their base.