

## Philippi Background



Philippi has a mixture of residential and farmland, it was also formerly known as *Springfield*, a settlement that was established around the late 1800s (1890s). The land was mainly used for grazing. The Germans were the first to farm in this area.

In the 1980s the township 'residential areas' of Philippi were created to accommodate the black population. This was in accordance with the group areas act. This meant much of agricultural land will be used for residential housing developments, such that all of Mitchell's Plain was part of the greater Philippi farmland.



### Community Background

With population growth the number of both formal and informal settlements has rapidly increased, which in turn has placed increasing pressure on city administrations to provide basic services. Within the residential area of Nyanga / Crossroads / Philippi, the Apartheid legacy of a lack of social and physical infrastructure has placed great strain on the community. Efforts to build the economy of Philippi through development of businesses and light industry in Philippi East have faced obstacles such as lack of adequate access to and from the area, extreme poverty and resulting social breakdown, and a workforce with a low skills base.

## Philippi Village Background



Philippi is a low-income settlement on the Cape Flats in Cape Town, which presents both potential and a range of challenges. It is strategically located in close proximity to transport nodes and economic opportunities such as the Cape Town International Airport, the Philippi Industrial Area and the Philippi Horticultural Area. Philippi Village is a 12-hectare social real estate development joint venture between an NGO, the Business Activator, with a 14-year history on site and well-established networks in Philippi, and the Bertha Foundation. The overall development was initiated with the vision of creating economic opportunity, skills development and employability development, through the provision of infrastructure and attracting a relevant mix of tenants to the 6,000m<sup>2</sup> business hub near the intersection of Klipfontein and Govan Mbeki Drive. Solution Space Philippi is a tenants within this overall development and have actively worked over the past two years with other local tenants such as the Philippi Economic Development Initiative (PEDI), Business Activator, Harambee, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, Silulo, and Columba Leadership.



Philippi Shoprite Centre



Philippi Spaza shop



Philippi Plaza

## Farming



Farming in Philippi at a large scale was initialized by the early Germans, who had exception knowledge and ability in growing vegetables in sandy soils. The farmland plays a crucial role in providing the city with vegetables, it provides over half of the vegetables supply in city.

The Germans also had to develop farming methods to deal with sandy soils, and one of those methods was no-till farming. These are methods which allowed extended existence of the farming with limited environmental impact. These farms play a fundamental role in the local economy, most of the workers are locals from surrounding areas



Siyangena Informal Settlement