

**Participant Information Sheet**

**IsuLabantu project**

**Introduction**

We are a joint research team of South African and UK-based researchers, who in partnership with you want to learn how to improve living conditions in informal settlements. We are studying how neighbourhoods and housing can be upgraded with the participation of the communities living in then.

**What is the purpose of the study? Why have I been invited to take part in the study?**

We are carrying out 2 weeks of study in Havelock, with the help of uTshani Fund. We want to understand:

* The views of residents about their housing, and about the upgrading process that has been carried out by uTshani Fund and FEDUP.
* Views about government processes for building and upgrading houses.
* What has worked well, and what could be done better in both community-led and government-led processes.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not have to participate. You can withdraw your participation at any time. You can request for your data to be withdrawn until it has been processed and entered into an anonymised dataset in April 2017.

If you would like to request that your data is withdrawn from the study, please contact XXX

If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep. We will also ask you to sign a consent form where you give your permission to participate in the study.

**What will I have to do?**

We will ask you to take part in a 45-60 minute interview / 2 hour focus group / 2 hour workshop [delete as appropriate]. The discussion will involve one translator who works for the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a ‘community researcher’ who lives in Havelock. You may stop the activity at any time with no negative consequences.

**What are the possible benefits or disadvantages of taking part?**

There are no direct immediate benefits to participants. However, by participating in the study you will be sharing and learning with us, and together we can build a better understanding of informal settlements which may help us to improve living conditions in informal settlements in the future. Participants involved in the group activities including the focus groups and the workshops will be offered light refreshments.

**What if there is a problem?**

Any complaint or concern about any aspect of the way you have been dealt with during the course of the study will be addressed; please contact XXX

**What will happen to the recordings of our conversations?**

All conversations will be kept confidential, and individuals will not be identified in the final study report. The recordings will be transcribed by professional transcribers. This data will be used to formulate a report and academic journal articles. Your data will be stored securely on the servers of the University of Westminster and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. All data will be anonymised and identifiers removed as soon as possible, and will be retained as anonymised transcripts for a period of 10 years.

**Full contact details of researcher**

You can contact the researchers from the University of Westminster via email or phone:

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is being conducted by the University of Westminster and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council in the UK, and the National Research Foundation in South Africa.

**Who has reviewed the project?**

This research has been reviewed by an independent group of people, called an Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has received approval by research ethics committees of both the University of Westminster and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Information Sheet.**