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THE ROLE OF ETHNIC ENCLAVES IN URBAN REGENERATION: FORDSBURG AS A CASE STUDY

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A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Development Planning.

Johannesburg, 2005

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Master of Science in Development Planning in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

_____

Ebrahim Mahomed

_____ day of _____ 2005

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research report is to determine the viability of the hypothesis that ethnic enclaves have the potential to contribute positively to urban regeneration. This research is motivated by the importance that is placed on regenerating cities at present and by the fact that many cities around the world, including Johannesburg, are intensely diverse and are composed of a significant number of ethnic minority groups. The Johannesburg Inner City area of Fordsburg has been chosen as a case study. The area has for many years been closely associated with the Indian community of Johannesburg and appears to be showing signs of renewed interest and rejuvenation. Secondary research has been employed as a means to structure the theoretical base of the report and to explain current debates regarding urban regeneration and ethnic enclaves. Quantitative and qualitative criteria have been applied in analysing the findings regarding the scenario in Fordsburg.

According to the theory, even in the modern contemporary metropolis, members of society still ascribe to ethnic identities and organise themselves spatially into ethnic enclaves within cities. It is also revealed that urban regeneration can be achieved through several means and that initiatives that target and include ethnic minorities have the potential to produce coherent and desirable results. This includes meaningful input from public sector, private sector and members of community. In analysing Fordsburg, it is shown that the area could definitely be considered as an ethnic enclave and is undergoing a certain amount of regeneration. This regeneration has been mainly driven by the private sector and members of community who identify with the Indian/South Asian enclave. While public sector input has been less significant in Fordsburg's regeneration, it is nevertheless asserted that ethnic enclaves do have the potential to positively promote urban regeneration.

For Abdul Samad and Yasmin

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ABBREVIATIONS

CBD	-	Central Business District
CID	-	City Improvement District
CJP	-	Central Johannesburg Partnership
CoJ	-	City of Johannesburg (Metropolitan Municipality)
DFA	-	Development Facilitation Act (1995)
EU	-	European Union
FMBF	-	Fordsburg-Mayfair Business Forum
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GGP	-	Gross Geographic Product
GJMC	-	Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council
ICO	-	Inner City Office
IDP	-	Integrated Development Plan
ISF	-	Interim Strategic Framework
JDA	-	Johannesburg Development Agency
JHB	-	Johannesburg
JHC	-	Johannesburg Housing Company
LDDC	-	London Docklands Development Corporation
LED	-	Local Economic Development
MTC	-	Metropolitan Trading Company
PWV	-	Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (region)
RSDF	-	Regional Spatial Development Framework
SDF	-	Spatial Development Framework
UDZ	-	Urban Development Zone
UK	-	United Kingdom
USA	-	United States of America