



9<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Dear Editor

**RE: OASIS HEAD OFFICE DEVELOPMENT- ROODEBLOEM ROAD**

With reference to a media report in the Cape Argus on Thursday 1 April 2010 "*City halts work on historic building*" and subsequent meetings with Heritage Western Cape and BELCOM (Built Environment and Landscapes Committee), Oasis Group would like to clear up a few misconceptions in the public debate.

"It has always been our intention, since the inception of our new Oasis head office construction project, to restore the existing old house on our University Estate property, purchased eight years ago. This was agreed to with Heritage Western Cape and the City of Cape Town's Heritage Department. Although the house in question exceeds 60 years of age it was never registered on the national heritage register or gazetted as a heritage resource, Oasis decided to include the structure in all building plans, designs and engineering works for the project.

The company has in good faith abided by all processes and requirements set by the authorities and instructed their structural engineers on the project to advise City of Cape Town Heritage and to further liaise with the City of Cape Town Building inspector on all site developments. This was duly done at all times and the plans to date remain unchanged.

As the structural engineer's report shows, there were very clear technical and safety reasons involved with regard to the roof and structure of the house, indicating that it was necessary to remove the beetle infested roof and some of the structure, which was structurally unsound and therefore unsafe. Oasis would like to reassure the residents in the surrounding area, who have shown concern about the old house on the site, that it will be restored safely and appropriately under the watchful eye of an independent heritage architect, whose appointment was agreed with the City of Cape Town.

There is no doubt a serious misunderstanding regarding this issue. Oasis is in the process of meeting with all parties concerned to investigate and comprehend the rationale behind the “stop works order” issued by Heritage Western Cape on this building.

Kind Regards

Sizwekazi Jekwa

Oasis Group Communications Officer

Oasis Group Holdings

Tel: 021 4139905

Fax: 021 4137904

E-mail: [marketing@oasiscrest.com](mailto:marketing@oasiscrest.com)