

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **SAHIF CONGRATULATES S'BU ZIKODE - WINNER OF PER ANGER PRIZE FOR 2021**

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*“Our work has been immensely enriched by organisations including Abahlali baseMjondolo”*

**Johannesburg 21 April 2021:** The South African Housing and Infrastructure Fund – SAHIF – is pleased to congratulate Sbu Zikode of Abahlali baseMjondolo for winning the LIVING HISTORY FORUM’S *Per Anger Prize for 2021*

We at SAHIF commend Abahlali for organizing communities to engage with government and companies like ourselves who are accelerating the delivery of serviced land, and in turn preventing unregulated land grabs by frustrated citizens who desperately need homes.

The work done by Sbu and Abahlali centers on the right to home, land, and survival for the most impoverished inhabitants of the country’s shack settlements, and fights for the right to home and land for society’s most marginalised members, highlighting the difficult living conditions for shack dwellers.

*“A shack without water, electricity, and sanitation is not worth calling a home. On the contrary, it means life-threatening circumstances that are particularly harsh towards women, children, and minority groups. The injustice is even more apparent now that the pandemic affects those who are already disadvantaged”* says S’bu Zikode

For us as SAHIF Abahlali have been one of the key partners instrumental in guiding our choice of land to install basic services of water, sewage and electricity – our core business.

*“One of the challenges in the country is that a lot of people build houses in the outskirts and spend money on transport to get to work – so one of the things we try to do is locate land that is close to cities. This work has been immensely enriched by organisations including Abahlali baseMjondolo. We’ve learnt with the pandemic that we must never leave anyone behind so our conversations with them have influenced our plans to install internet – it will be exciting to see affordable housing having proper internet for everyone to connect with the world.”* says SAHIF CEO Rali Mampeule

*“This year, the Per Anger Prize goes to a man who revolts against poverty. He fights for the most vulnerable in South Africa’s shack settlements and for their rights to a home and a dignified life. He is a true human rights defender”* says Ingrid Lomfors, Superintendent of The Living History Forum.

**Ends.**

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## **ABOUT SAHIF**

SAHIF acquires vacant and unused land near the centres of towns and cities for conversion into zoned and serviced stands, to enhance the speedy delivery of serviced stands to middle and lower income earning households to build their own homes close to places of work, education, healthcare, public transport and other amenities.

## **ABOUT THE PER ANGER PRIZE**

The Per Anger Prize is the Swedish Government's international prize for human rights and democracy. The prize was established in 2004 in recognition of diplomat Per Anger's efforts during the Second World War, when he saved Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust. The Living History Forum is commissioned by the Swedish Government to award the annual prize.

The nominating committee's selection of the recipient for 2021 has been carried out by nine internationally acknowledged organisations with wide-ranging contacts: Afrikagrupperna, Amnesty International, Civil Rights Defenders, Diakonia, Individuell Människohjälp (IM), the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Save the Children, Act Church of Sweden, and We Effect.

This year's prizewinner was nominated by the organisation Afrikagrupperna.

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