

FIRMS LOSE LICENCE TO BUILD

Offenders flouted rules

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Business Reporter

NEARLY 50 construction companies across the country are no longer allowed to build houses.

The names of the 45 offenders that were scrapped from the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) were revealed yesterday.

The companies were, among other things, found guilty of failing to register new homes, and to comply with the code of conduct and building standards.

They also did not respond to the NHBRC's correspondence, as required by law.

The construction companies include those in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Western Cape.

NHBRC CEO Mongezi Mnyani said the council would not tolerate any noncompliance and shoddy workmanship from home builders.

He said the deregistered construction companies were free to

take the matter up for review with the high court.

"Builders are given ample opportunity to rectify when we find them not adhering to the building standards," he said.

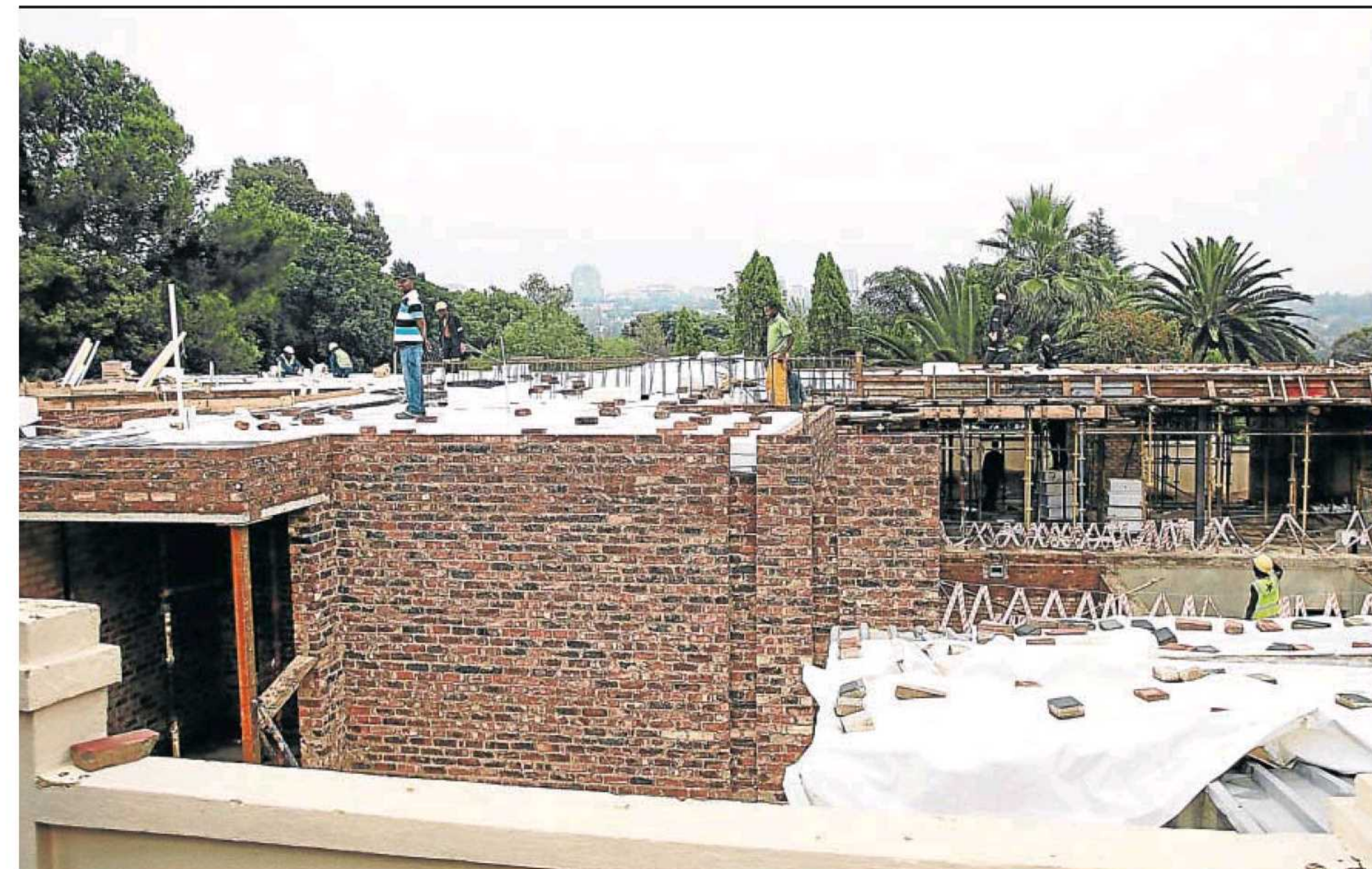
"However, as the NHBRC we need to do our part in ensuring that housing consumers are protected against such contractors and builders," said Mnyani.

He said in some cases the reason that contractors or builders failed to comply was lack of skills.

"As much as the NHBRC has stringent measures in place to protect homeowners, we are aware of some of the challenges that contractors face in the area of adequate skills and experience and we do provide access to free training in order to address this," said Mnyani.

"Our training budget is R30-million and to date we have trained 827 youth, 187 artisans, 81 military veterans and 1 857 emerging home builders."

Mnyani advised homeowners to



ensure that they hire NHBRC-registered builder.

"Over and above training, the NHBRC offers services such as enrolment of new homes, home builder registration, home building

inspections, geo-technical and materials engineering.

"However, homeowners have the responsibility to ensure that they use an NHBRC-registered builder and that their homes are enrolled

before commencing with construction of their homes," he said.

Attempts to get comment from the deregistered companies were unsuccessful.

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION:
The National Home Builders Registration Council advises homeowners to use registered builders

PHOTO: SIMPHIWE NKWALI