HOMEOWNERS IN TRANSITION: THE EFFECTS OF CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S HOUSING POLICY

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ABSTRACT

Black housing policy in South Africa has changed dramatically since 1976. In terms of the so-called "new dispensation", there has been a shift toward the promotion of homeownership, with public housing made available for purchase by existing tenants, and with the future housing strategy being replaced by an emphasis on self-help. This policy shift has initiated a process of transition among urban black communities that will ultimately touch millions of people. This paper examines particular attitudes to ownership, tenure and finance. It is argued that those that are subject to the process of transition carry with them a socio-political and historical heritage that inevitably colours their receptiveness in terms of new policy initiatives.