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Submission of Paper:

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- Proposed title of paper: Historical development of township urbanisation in Johannesburg¹
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- Abstract:

The development of urban townships in Johannesburg has been poorly managed and influenced by politics since the discovery of gold. Most historical studies of Soweto are from a political perspective. This paper analyses the township urbanisation process from a development economic perspective since 1886. However, this cannot be separated from the political decisions that dictated the urbanisation process. Klipspruit is the oldest of a cluster of townships that constitute present day Soweto. African and Indian residents of Brickfields were moved to Kliptown by the British controlled authorities, following the plague in 1904. The majority was later forced to move illegally into vacant areas such as Orlando, Pimville, Dube, Newclare and Alexandra due to a shortage of housing, planning and management. Squatter suburbs sprang up virtually overnight, as is the case at present. In 1957 the poor conditions in the “Shanty towns” caused Ernest Oppenheimer to secure a £3 million loan from the 7 mining groups to build 15 000 houses over 3 years.

¹ This has long been a topic under consideration, especially after working at Vista University in Soweto for 21 years, and due to my love for history.