



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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700 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE TITLE DEEDS

Efforts to accelerate the roll-out of title deeds and guarantee security of tenure to government's subsidised houses beneficiaries continue to gain momentum. Seven hundred (700) housing beneficiaries from different villages in Barberton, City of Mbombela in Mpumalanga became owners of their properties as they were bestowed with these legal documents. Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation Deputy Minister; Ms Pamela Tshwete handed over title deeds to women at Verulam as part of Women's Month celebration aimed at profiling and promoting women in build industry. The title deeds are going to change women's economic position, as it will increase their access to funding and societal standing.

The activities included the handing over of a fully furnished house to a woman beneficiary; symbolic building and project walk about. Speaking during the ceremony Tshwete pointed to the value of the South African democracy and its milestones in gender equality and women emancipation. "The new democratic dispensation ushered in equal rights to everyone, hence women must also enjoy security of tenure and have title deeds, so they become legitimate property owners as opposed to caretakers", she said. She added that the struggle for women empowerment must run concurrently with the fight against women and gender based violence.

One of the title deeds beneficiaries on the day Mashaba Thokozile (75) from Emjindini expressed her gratitude in becoming the legitimate homeowner in the month of women. "This is the great day for me, especially during the women's month that I have the title deed. I am really grateful to government", expressed Mashaba. She added that her children and grandchildren would have the legacy to look after as she ages.

Her gratitude was equally echoed by Nkosi Nonkululeko (25) who received her house as a child headed beneficiary who lauded government's caring for the needy and destitute. "Government has transformed my life and my siblings we got the house years back; I was the eldest, looking after my siblings. Government took good care of us and today we have the title deed".

The title deeds roll out is the national strategic priority for the next five-year period. During her Policy and Budget Vote presentation, Human Settlements MEC, Ms Norah Mahlangu announced that the department wants to ensure security of tenure and remains steadfast to addressing the title deeds backlog thus improving its institutional capacity to improve delivery. For the current financial year, the department is planning to register 15 000 title deeds.

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