



human settlements  
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## Media Release

12 December 2016

**Immediate Release**

**To: All Media Houses**

**Attention: News Editors/Producers/Journalists**

### GOVERNMENT MOVES SWIFTLY TO TACKLE LAWLESSNESS

The City of Mbombela and Human Settlements Department have enlisted the services of the police to intervene at the illegal occupation of houses and eviction of lawful beneficiaries by so called concerned individuals or groups at Tekwane North Ext 1. This follows an event over the weekend where MEC, Mr Speedy Mashilo together with City of Mbombela Executive Mayor, Cllr Sibusiso Mathonsi, handed over more than 400 housing units to lawful beneficiaries in the new settlement to government subsidised beneficiaries this Saturday.

It has emerged that after the hand-over, a group of people and some individuals confronted the beneficiaries at their houses, intimidated them to vacate the houses. In some instances where the beneficiaries had not yet taken occupation of their houses, the group randomly allocated themselves any of those unoccupied houses. It has also been reported that there were few instances of assault to some beneficiaries. The police and the City's law enforcement personnel have since been deployed on site to assist the affected beneficiaries and facilitate criminal cases where possible. The delivery is a R51 million project that consists of nearly 500 houses realised through the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP), water, sanitation and roads infrastructure delivered by both institutions.

Once again, as government we condemn this incident and similar ones which are infringing on people's rights and at worse impede development in society. The Department and the municipality urge all victims to report any challenges experienced as a result of this criminal act to be reported to the police. Plans are underway between both the institutions and the concerned group or individuals to find an amicable solution to this matter. Police will continue to monitor and normalise the situation on site, protect the public and property.

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**ISSUED BY: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & CITY OF MBOMBELA**

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