



Press Release
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NO MORE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS FOR TITLE DEEDS RECIPIENTS.

For years gogo Eveline Malinga (62) feared her house might be taken away from her, but today she received her gift in a form of a title deed from Mpumalanga Human Settlements MEC, Violet Siwela during her visit to Nkomazi Local Municipality to hand over title deeds. Ms Malinga is amongst 509 beneficiaries from Nkomazi, Mbombela, Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities who received their title deeds in Schoemansdaal, Nkomazi.

Taken aback with joy, Malinga overwhelmingly said that the title deed was long overdue since she has been occupying the house in 2001, ***"I'm very excited that finally I have a home that I can safely call my home. I lived my whole life in this house without proper documentation and my most fear was that if I died before accumulating the title deed my family would be homeless."*** A title deed reflects as a legal document that ensures ownership of a property, as it allows home owners to make decisions that will improve their living circumstances.

The beneficiaries will also be able to use their title deeds to improve their dwellings, to acquire household's goods and make use of capital borrowing against their properties to start small businesses. MEC Siwela said, ***"A title deed is not just an ordinary piece of paper, but a legal document that ought to be valued by every beneficiary for it is important. From today all the beneficiaries will have their dignities restored and livelihoods improved."*** Siwela added that the mushrooming of informal settlements and scarcity of land can be attributed to the 1913 Natives Land Act which meant that blacks were deprived of their rights to shelter dignity and sense of belonging.

The issuing of title deeds is to facilitate the registration in to the names of the housing beneficiaries, ensure provision of security of tenure for beneficiaries, ensure their lives are continuously and economically improved through guarantees with the title deeds and satisfy the provision of legislation to provide them to beneficiaries. ***"Acquiring a title deed enables a beneficiary to have the house as an asset, offer sense of pride and belonging"***, concluded Siwela

The Department has planned to deliver 15 000 Title Deeds this financial year 2016/17. Nearly 6000 title deeds were issued last financial year. Nkomazi municipality will benefit from a budget of **R49 million** to deliver 523 housing units planned for this financial year delivered through various programme.

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