



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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AN ORPHANED FAMILY BENEFITS DURING YOUTH DAY

Life would never be the same again for a 28 year-old lady from Msholozhi Park in Volksrust at the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Municipality who lived her childhood life in a decrepit shack with her family. Ms Zanele Nkwanyane, who's now the head of the Nkwanyane family with five siblings, tremendously benefitted a fully furnished house from the Department of Human Settlements during the Provincial Youth Day commemoration held at the municipality at the weekend.

Her notable surprise came as a result of the Department's informal settlements upgrading project which seeks to eradicate among others; dwellings in shack houses and the occupation of derelict mud houses. With its target of 80 units to be built in this area, the Department has so far been able to build 74 units to completion level with 53 ready for occupation. The remaining six units will be delivered by end of August 2015.

Expressing her delight, Nkwanyane said that despite having to fend for her family every day and making sure that they went to bed with a full stomach, a house was all they could ever need, **"We are grateful to what our government has done to us. We really appreciate their efforts and the supreme intervention they made to our lives. May you continue to reach out to many others with similar conditions as ours,"** she said gloatingly.

This informal settlement project has had a positive impact on the community of Msholozhi Park since priority was given to people of this area for employment. Processes of skills transfer have been taking place in the project which will ultimately result in the people of Msholozhi Park acquiring skills that will afford them better work opportunities in the future.

Acting Premier, MEC Vusi Shongwe pointed out that, **"Your safety and dignity have been restored and you ought to be grateful for the delivery by this government in delivering services for you as a family and communities out there"**. He further commended the Department's efforts in delivering quality houses and other projects for communities throughout the province. Nearly R10 million has been budgeted to deliver the project.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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