



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO RESTORE DIGNITY TO HOUSEHOLDS

While fearing that she may lose her RDP house, one of government's low cost housing beneficiary, 71 year-old Gogo Sarah Masina, received her dignified gift in a form of a title deed from Mpumalanga Human Settlements MEC, Violet Siwela during her visit to Mkhondo Local Municipality to issue more than 600 title deeds to beneficiaries in Amsterdam and surrounding areas within the municipality. The delivery is an on-going campaign which has been to Steve Tshwete, Umjindi, Mkhondo, eMalahleni and Mbombela Local Municipalities.

Taken aback with joy, Masina overwhelmingly said that she almost lost her RDP house from one of the community member who claimed that it was her house: ***"I am very excited to receive my legal document. This states that I am a rightful owner of this house and now I can sleep peacefully without any fear."*** 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 more than 600 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.

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. Ownership further allows beneficiaries to use their houses to leverage their economic circumstances by making additional income. Property ownership, however, compels the owners to pay municipal rates and services received.

MEC Siwela said, ***"This is a legal document that ought to be valued by every beneficiary for it is important. Make sure that you keep it in a safe place."*** Siwela said this while handing over the title deeds to the beneficiaries adding that the mushrooming of informal settlements and scarcity of land can be attributed to the 1913 Natives Land Act. The Act meant that blacks were deprived of their rights to shelter. A total of 10 000 title deeds have been planned to be issued during the current financial year.

**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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