



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

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STATE OF THE ART SOCIAL FACILITIES FOR SIKHULILIWE COMMUNITY

The community of Sikhululiwe Village in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga have all the good reasons to conclude the women's celebration on a high. This as they received a state of the art socio-economic facilities from the Provincial Department of Human Settlements. MEC Speed Mashilo together with the Executive Mayor, Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela officially opened the newly constructed the R25 million Community Hall and a Day Care Centre on the 25th August 2023.

The multi-million facilities are delivered through the Social and Economic Facilities Programme. The 1280 square metre hall has a ticket boot, fitted kitchen, offices and boardroom. With the capacity to accommodate 600 people, the hall will be used for social events such as community meetings, weddings and cultural activities, amongst others. Meanwhile the 307,8 square metre Day Care Centre which will be operated by the Department of Social Development has three classrooms, waiting area, reception and a sickbay, wash room, ablution facilities, pantry and kitchen, storeroom and play area will benefit children in the area.

Speaking at the handover, MEC Mashilo explained that the department has spent **R25 million** to construct these beautiful facilities for the community therefore they must take full ownership of the infrastructure. "Today I am handing over these facilities to the municipality and the community at large. It is your responsibility to safeguard this building since it's going to benefit the community for holding social gatherings and many other activities" said Mashilo. He further expounded that the Social and Economic Facilities Programme aims to assist municipalities to construct social amenities that can be utilised by their citizens in close proximity to their communities.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Masilela started by appreciating the community for ensuring that the project runs smooth without any interruption until it was completed. "The facilities are poised to become a shining example that we can achieve more when a community work together with the municipality to create something special" mentioned Cllr Masilela. He also thanked the department for delivering a state of the art facilities to the community and investing in rural areas.

Talking on behalf of the community, Ms Mimi Mokwena said that they used to hold community meetings in an open sportsground and during rainy days important meeting will be cancelled. "We are very grateful to receive this stunning building now we going to have our meeting in a proper structure and other social activities. Our grandparents will have a proper place to receive their social grants" said Ms Mokwena expressing her gratitude. MEC Mashilo announced that the department is also planning to hand over Hlalanikahle Social Amenities still under construction at the municipality. Similar facilities are being rolled out and delivered through the province.



**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT PERSON: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ flngobe@mpg.gov.za**

