



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CYCLONE DINEO FAMILY GET A FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

Following heavy storm that hit some parts of South Africa including Mpumalanga few months ago as a result of Cyclone Dineo, the family of an 81-year old Gogo Ennie Khoza in Naas Village, Nkomazi Local Municipality was left with nothing but a collapsed structure of what was once their sweet home. Khoza's appalling conditions worsened after the heavy downpours left her homeless and that caught the attention of the local municipality who then sought help from the Department of Human Settlements to intervene in getting them a proper house.

Nkomazi Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza during their visit to the family they discovered that the normal government housing programme would not accommodate the family owing to their big size; hence they sourced donations from sponsors. Gogo Khoza and her husband, Mr Elphus Matikwani said that there was never a time in life where they felt so much confronted by death during the storm. "It was one moment of terror, shock and so much confusion when it happened. The whole roof in our house got blown away in a split second leaving me, my husband together with my grandchildren to the threats of death as the bricks started falling off the walls," she sobbed.

"As a municipality we spoke to the Department and agreed on finding a donor to assist the family. Working with various stakeholders from private and the business community it was indeed possible to get contributions. We're proud to note that when times are tough, we still got people who are there to help land a hand to the weak and needy," said Mayor. The family depends solely on social grants and gogo Khoza is a custodian to five of her grandchildren from whom two are still in school while the others are unemployed. She thanked the Department together with the municipality and the sponsor for their generous support to aid her family in times of need.

MEC Speed Mashilo officially handed the house to the family and wished them a happy stay during the Easter holidays and going forward, "I must say that as one of the people who visited you at that time definitely there was a lot of damage and serious interventions had to be made. To the many others be rest assured that surely we will reach out to you too." He thanked MT Silinda and Associates for the fully furnished house for the Khoza's who will now enjoy the comfort of a new house.

Representative from the company, Mr Jacob Silinda commended the good working relationship from all stakeholders during the building processes, by saying, "It is certainly a blessing when we come together with one purpose to help the needy. Let's continue with our efforts to change the lives of the less-fortunate in our communities for a better life for all." The Department has more projects to deliver human settlements development during this financial year.

**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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