



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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MASHILO BEMOANS ILLEGAL RENTING OUT OF RDP HOUSES

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements is urging all beneficiaries of government low cost houses to refrain from renting out their properties and advises communities to report such illegal acts to government. MEC Speedy Mashilo raised these challenges during his visit to the municipality to hand over nearly 90 title deeds to rightful property owners on Friday. MEC Mashilo decried such illegal events and lamented the slow pace for the delivery of title deeds in Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

The issuing of title deeds ensures that properties (RDP) are registered in a beneficiaries' name and in turn restores dignity to owners. "The allocation of these houses is not meant to make profit for the beneficiaries by means of renting them out. Any person found to be renting out a property especially within the eight year period, will then create the impression that the property is not acquired for the desired purpose, therefore it should be offered back to the Department which alongside with the Municipality will find a qualifying beneficiary as a replacement," charge Mashilo.

One of the beneficiary Mr Joseph Ngwenya (43) said, after having been forcefully removed from his house and lived in uncertainty for years he never thought he could ever wake up one day to have legal ownership to his house. Ngwenya said, "I was living in fear with my family because there were people who would claim that this was not my house, but today I am so relieved and happy to have this legal document that guarantees me to be the rightful owner."

Mashilo mentioned that the Department has put it on record that once an RDP has been transferred to a legitimate beneficiary, a title deed will be issued accordingly. By virtue of the legitimate beneficiary being the registered owner, he/she is therefore entitled to stipulate in a 'Will' who will inherit the property when death occurred. The Department has issues over 6000 this financial year (2016/17) and more than 20 thousand title deeds to government low cost houses beneficiaries since 2014.

On another service, the Department is currently delivering 200 and 100 housing units through the Informal Settlement Upgrading and Peoples Housing Process (PHP) programmes in the municipality estimated to R36 million, respectively. The informal settlements upgrading programme seeks to eradicate among others; dwellings in shack houses and the occupation of derelict mud houses and rapid urbanization and inadequate capability to cope with housing needs of people in urban areas have contributed to the mushrooming of informal settlements.

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

