



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PROPERTY OWNERSHIP GIVEN TO NEARLY 1200 HOUSEHOLDS

The long wait for property ownership by scores of low cost housing (RDP) beneficiaries in Mpumalanga came to an end when Human Settlements MEC Violet Siwela issued nearly 1200 to various households at Rockdale, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality this week. With a target of 10 000 Title deeds to be issued by the end of the current financial year, the Department has so far delivered about 8 500 of these legal documents to rightful beneficiaries across the province.

During the issuing processes in the midst of a capacity crowd of 3000 community members, Siwela emphasised that, "A title deed is a legal document that ensures ownership of a property as it allows home owners to make decisions that will improve their living circumstances." Other benefiting municipalities included eMalahleni, Victor Khanye, Emakhazeni and Msukaligwa.

One jubilant beneficiary, 65-year old Mr Collins Mashele said that despite living in fear of being evicted from the house, it was not possible to open a bank account or access anything that would require his proof of address: "No amount of words can define my excitement today. I have felt the good feeling of freedom before but today it sounds even better," expressed the ecstatic Mashele.

Equally excited was Ms Maria Mokoena (72) who couldn't hold her tears of joy when recounting of how ruthless she was once evicted because they never had any security of tenure to their house. Mokoena said, "Thanking you would be an understatement. I am grateful for the freedom you have brought me. Today I will in my house without any fear of intimidation."

"It is very vital that as we continue building our people these houses we must also makes sure that they have all the legal documents to safeguard their ownership to their houses," highlighted MEC Siwela. She further urged the beneficiaries to refrain from extending their newly built houses with corrugated shacks. This, she charges is not safe and poses danger during turbulent weather seasons.

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