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**Press Release**  
**27 April 2017**

**EIGHTY (80) HOUSEHOLDS FINALLY RECEIVE HOUSES ON FREEDOM DAY**

A 80 units housing project worth over R90 million has been delivered to needy families at Mammethlake Village, Nkangala District during Mpumalanga's Freedom Day commemoration. Various MECs, councillors and other stakeholders handed over the houses, legacy projects and other household items to the community in the municipality as part of the celebrations. The country celebrates 23 years of freedom since the advent of democracy attained in 1994. The housing project was commissioned to deliver the houses during the 2014/15 financial year to deliver the houses in the municipality bordering Limpopo and Gauteng.

The provincial activities led by Culture, Sport and Recreation MEC, Norah-Mahlangu symbolically handed-over of two of the 80 housing units to several beneficiaries. The province celebrated the day with pride and dignity where 58-year old Giya Philliant Matjeke staying with his wife benefited from the Rural Housing Assistance programme delivered by the Department of Human Settlements. The father of two who makes a living through piece jobs couldn't thank government more for this delivery in his life. "Government is helping us a lot as we now have a house and I can be able to bring back my children from where they currently stay", he emphasised.

Matjeke's story is somewhat bitter sweet to comprehend. Much as he welcomed the big day (Freedom) and the goodies from government, he is trying to restore his small business of supplying wood and water to the community through his three donkeys. His water cart provided to him by government was recently stolen and later recovered around Bela-Bela in Limpopo. Furious Matjeke bemoaned the apparent slow progress by police on arresting the criminals who stole his water-cart which has since been stripped off all the metal material. "Since I don't have the water-cart, my business is suffering, therefore making life difficult", he lamented.

The country has made substantial progress at promulgating progressive legislation and general service delivery since the advent of democracy. Human Settlements MEC, Speed Mashilo charges that, "the ANC government continues in delivering quality services to communities". He implored the municipality and the department to ensure the connection of electricity to the newly built houses. Meanwhile Human Settlements and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr Thulare Madileng appreciated the delivery, however, challenged the department that all the outstanding work (snags) are attended to by the contractor. Some of the items given to households include furniture, school uniform, and food parcels, amongst others. The national celebration was addressed by President Jacob Zuma at Manguze, KwaZulu-Natal.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**  
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