



Press Release
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GRANNY (87) GETS A HOUSE DURING MANDELA DAY

Long waiting for a government low cost house, 87-year old Gogo Fikile Zwane who stays with her five grandchildren in Siphumelele Township in Kinross, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality has finally received her fully furnished RDP house. Before her son was retrenched, Gogo Zwane was staying with him at the company's house where he was working. After being moved from the house, Zwane has been staying in a shack with her grandchildren.

The handover was done by the Department of Human Settlements in collaboration with Govan Mbeki Municipality and D R Bongani Investments as part of the Mandela Month Campaign on the 21st July 2015. The campaign was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela for everyone to take action and address the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now".

In handing over the house, Human Settlements MEC, Ms Violet Siwela applauded the contractor D R Bongani Investment for partnering with government to change the lives of people in disadvantaged communities. "Government alone cannot reach out to each and every citizen, those who are more fortunate must appreciate what they already have and plough back to their communities," Siwela said. DR Bongani Construction donated furniture to Gogo Zwane and blankets and food parcels to 68 households.

Receiving the house, an elated Zwane said her family would no longer have to run for cover during windy and rainy seasons since they were occupying a one room shack. "Thank you very much, to me and my family this is an early Christmas present". Her house is part of a 500 housing units project being constructed in the municipality this financial year.

Accompanied by Govan Mbeki Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Lindi Masina, MEC Siwela led a team of municipal and government officials donating the items at Bethal, eMbalenhle and Kinross. The day culminated with a symbolic construction of a house for 68-year old Mr Joseph Mabena who has been staying in a farm until local councilor intervened by getting them a stand in Siphumelele Township at Kinross. Mabena has been staying in a shack for more than ten years and it is anticipated that he will occupy his house in no time, therefore restore his dignity. The Mandela Day Campaign is done to emulate the former president's ideals of reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and justice for all.

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