



**Press Release
27 July 2016**

A FIFTY HOUSING UNITS PROJECT BENEFITS THE ELDERLY

Two elderly women who have lived in shacks for most of their lives were amongst 50 beneficiaries who received new fully furnished houses and household essentials in Khayelihle, Wesselton Extension 11 in Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Mpumalanga this week. Human Settlements MEC, Violet Siwela visited the families to take part in symbolic painting and handed over the low cost housing project as she continued with the Mandela Day Campaign drive.

Ms Diana Zulu (65), a single parent of six children who all depend on her old age pension and Sophie Nkosi (77), were handed keys to their new government low cost houses. Zulu who lived in a shack with her children for a long time was overjoyed when she received her fully furnished house. "If I had wings I was going to fly higher since that's how I am excited, my prayers have been answered. As you all know that this area is very cold and it was very hard to sleep in that shack, thanks to the department for my house" said Zulu with a joyful smile.

Two women contractors, Ms Lindiwe Warinda and Ms Glenrose Mkansi donated furniture and household essentials to the families. "I am so humble to see these elderlies so excited and I want to encourage all contractors that lets plough back to the community we build for, and make a different in their life. Let's work together with government to fight poverty said Ms Warinda".

Later in the day, MEC Siwela and Executive Mayor, Sipho Bongwe handed over blankets to elderly and people with disability at Thuthukani Welfare Centre. "As a Department we are not only focusing in building houses for them but to make sure that they feel safe and important in society, charged Siwela. The Department spent over R5 million in completing the 50 units delivered through the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) for the community.

This achievement is driven by the Department's commitment to eradicate inadequate infrastructure, poor access to basic services, unsuitable environments, uncontrolled and unhealthy population particularly in the Gert Sibande and Nkangala District Municipalities where majority of job seekers move to. The Department has R1.3 billion to construct 8 620 houses, service 7 466 stands/sites, deliver 100 Community Residential Units, six community halls and child care centers in the Province during the 2016/17 financial year.

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