



**Press Release
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**ABUSE AND CRIME SUSCEPTIBLE TO FAMILIES RECEIVE HOUSES
“A delivery during the 16 Days of NO Violence Campaign”**

Two vulnerable families are breathing a sigh of relief following the hand-over of fully furnished government houses at Soul Mkhize Village, Mkhondo Local Municipality during the launch of Provincial 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Children Abuse Campaign. After years of hardships staying in dilapidated structures used as houses, the beneficiaries became happy owners of decent houses when the provincial government through the Department of Human Settlements launched the campaign at the municipality at the weekend.

The arrival of provincial leadership at both government and business, 56-year old Ms Nompoti Shongwe broke into tears as she was ushered into the newly built house. “It has been a long time staying in a shack and today I’m grateful of the government. People have been coming here promising to build me a house, but today that dream has come through”, whispered tearful Shongwe. She was born at the then Driefontein (now Mkhizeville) and currently staying with her five children. Three of the are still school going and receive government’s child support grant.

Another beneficiary of the 100 housing units project by Human Settlements is 28-year old Nomusa Gumbe who is looking after four siblings following the death of her mother in 2007. The four are still school going and were occupying a one-roomed dilapidated shack until the intervention by the department. The R12 million project which is expected to benefit 100 households is made possible through the Rural Residential Programme and will be completed by late this year. The province has made a good name for itself for excelling through this programme. It was named the best province in the roll-out of Farmworker Assistance Programme at the recent Govan Mbeki Awards Campaign.

Talking to the beneficiaries, government leaders urged community members to take care of each other, especially the most vulnerable. Provincial Police Commissioner, Lt. General Bethwell Zuma Mondli warned that, “people will always take advantage of the defenseless and we call on all members of society to protect one another and stay safe”. Local Mayor, Cnr congratulated the beneficiaries and commended efforts by the provincial government. He acknowledged the delivery of schools, houses, and water by various departments towards the betterment of people’s lives. The 16 Days Campaign aims at raising awareness to communities against women and children abuse.

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