

# MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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## Department of Human Settlements

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**Press Release**  
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### ANOTHER PROJECT FOR AFFORDABLE ACCOMODATION DELIVERED

Efforts to render affordable accommodation and addressing urban decay are gaining momentum. The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements is rolling-out plans of addressing concerns of urban decay, huge housing demand and provision of decent and affordable accommodation for workers at economic active towns. The department recently delivered a multi-million project of 78 Community Residential Units (CRU) to the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality at Emzinoni in Bethal. This is part of the Department's broadened mandate to deliver affordable accommodation through the CRU and Social Housing Programmes that aim at mitigating the influx of people coming to towns for better livelihood.

The CRU programme is implemented for the provision of sustainable human settlements and improving quality of household life. ***"In line with the convictions of this democracy, the Community Residential Units Programme replaces the National Hostel Re-development programme and the proposed "Affordable Rental Housing Programme",*** charged MEC Violet Siwela during the hand over. Both programmes are mainly implemented in collaboration with municipalities and Housing Institutions that exist in the province. These projects cannot be sold or transferred to individual residents at any time, no pre-emptive rights. Ownership can only be transferred from the Department to municipality in line with Housing Act.

The Community Residential Units is a programme that aims to facilitate the provision of secure and stable accommodation for lower income persons. There is a small fraction on institutional subsidies projects linked to Social Housing Programmes. In this project the Department demolished the old hostel and building new Community Residential Units. The multi-year project which started in 2009/10 financial year is about the construction of 176 CRU with a R100 million budget. The recent launch was Phase one which completed 78 units and the remaining 98 units will be delivered during the next financial years.

The programme focuses on facilitating the provision of secure, stable rental tenure for lower income persons, households earning below R3500 not able to access private rental stock, covers hostels, balance of public stock that cannot be transferred, support integration of public housing into broader housing market and environment, ensure creation of sustainable public assets and addresses dysfunctional/ distressed buildings in cities. ***"This programme seeks to undermine the old hostels that were common at industrial cities such as Johannesburg where husbands were forced to leave and fend for their families",*** continued MEC Siwela. There are two new CRUs planned at Thaba Chweu and Govan Mbeki Local Municipalities.

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