



Press Release
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DEPRIVED FAMILIES DANCE THEIR WAY INTO NEW HOUSES

Happiness enveloped three underprivileged families at Mzinti Village, Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mpumalanga as they received newly built houses and donations from the Department of Human Settlements, stakeholders and business community during the second phase of the Nelson Mandela International Campaign activities this week (20 July 2016).

An 86-year old, Emma Mkhatswa who lived in a one room house was excited to be led into her new fully furnished house that was donated by one of the contractors. Mkhatswa who survives on her pension fund said that it had never occurred to her that she will one day ever live in a decent house. "I am excited to be among the beneficiaries. I have been longing for a moment like this for years now, thanks God today you came to me. I thank the good teachings and the spirit of Ubuntu Tata Mandela taught you", exclaimed the excited Mkhatswa.

Activities of the day unfolded with MEC Violet Siwela and Nkomazi Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza leading all participants paint the houses of Mr Elijah Sihlangu and that of a 72-year old Ms Ressa Nkomo. They made grocery donations and planted vegetable seeds at these households. MEC Siwela reminded the participants of the great work Madiba has done for the country and globally. "Madiba was selfless in his work and stood for humanity", she quipped.

Contractor, Mr. Michael Nesane, expressed happiness when he saw the beneficiaries ushered into their long awaited houses. "I have never felt so much good in my life. To see such happy faces it really brings joy to my heart. To this day my company has been able to give back to 86 families in the form of donating furniture and some food parcels. I am excited and wish our communities can adopt the culture of giving out to the needy."

The Department started this year's celebration for Madiba month at eMalahleni Municipality with a symbolic construction and painting of houses at KwaGuqa Ext 11 on the 18th July 2016. The Department also partnered with the Emalahleni Housing Company by donating 1000 blankets to needy households and welfare organisation in the municipality.

The 18th July was declared by the United Nations (2009) as an annual international Mandela Day celebration and seeks to entrench and promote the legacy, values and principles of Dr. Nelson Mandela and encourages society to undertake civic duty. On this day, people are encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to make difference in other people's lives. The Department will conclude its campaign at Wesselton, Msukaligwa Local Municipality on the 27th July 2016.

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