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**Media Release (Immediate Release)**  
**14 December 2016**

**EVICTED BENEFICIARIES TO BE MOVED INTO THEIR HOUSES AT TEKWANE NORTH HOUSING PROJECT**

The City of Mbombela and Mpumalanga Human Settlements Department are forging ahead to move in beneficiaries to their houses following illegal evictions by individuals or a group of people at the recently handed over integrated human settlements project at Tekwane North Extension 1. Human Settlements MEC, Speedy Mashilo and Executive Mayor, Clr Sibusiso Mathonsi handed over keys to more than 360 of the 490 project to rightful housing beneficiaries at the weekend. It later emerged that the individuals or group invaded and evicted some of the beneficiaries and illegally occupied the unallocated houses. There were also reported incidents of vandalism to property and intimidation of some beneficiaries.

The Executive Mayor, Clr Sibusiso Mathonsi, officials from the department, municipality and the concerned group held a meeting to have either the illegally invaded houses or evicted rightful beneficiaries vacate the units and allow the approved rightful beneficiaries to take occupation of their houses. Sequel to the meeting, Mayor Mathonsi addressed the community where he appealed for calm and urged all invaders to voluntarily vacate the houses and allow rightful beneficiaries to take occupation. It has since been established that the call by the Mayor was not adhered to by the invaders as they are refusing to vacate the houses.

In addressing the stand-off, the municipality and the department have resolved to coordinate the affected beneficiaries to return them to their houses tomorrow at the project. All affected beneficiaries are urged to make way to the Tekwane North Ext 1 project to receive confirmation letters of ownership to their properties at an event scheduled as follows:

**DATE** : 15<sup>TH</sup> December 2016

**VANUE** : Tekwane North Ext 1 Housing Project

**TIME** : 10h00

Once again government would like to apologise to the affected beneficiaries and other community members for the inconvenience caused as a result of these acts. Government further condemns acts of criminality which have clearly taken place at this project as they are infringing on people's rights and at worse impede development in society.

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**ISSUED BY: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & CITY OF MBOMBELA**  
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