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**Press Release**  
**28 July 2016**

**MEC SIWELA LAUNCHES 250 HOUSES IN BUSHBUCKRIDGE**

Human Settlements MEC Violet Siwela led a sod-turning ceremony today in Agincourt near Bushbuckridge to launch a 250 housing project under the Department's Rural Development Programme which is currently under construction for this financial year. She told stakeholders that the municipality has been plagued with a lot of challenges over the years, but it is pleasing to note the current developments taking place so far.

An approximate budget of **R25 million** has been set aside to create these developments. The project which is inclusive of seven wards from the area has currently approved 177 beneficiaries. Speaking at the ceremony, MEC Siwela informed the public that being guided by the mandate and policies of the Department; she has been working around the clock to ensure that all deserving beneficiaries get their descent houses.

"As a Department there are rules and regulations which guide us to ensure that all the people we have prioritised receive their houses. This includes the elderly, people living with disabilities and the child-headed families," recapped Siwela who added that the Department has also begun with the planning and strategizing of the new hospital and school to be built around Buyisonto as part of the plans and commitments of the Department this financial year.

One of the eventual beneficiaries, a 72-year old Gogo Kekulani Masite was excited to see the construction processes unfolding around her home yard and remarked that this could only be the moment she had been waiting to see in her life. "This is our turning point. For years my family and I had been waiting for this and I am glad that our government has heard us cry," said the excited Gogo.

MEC Siwela wrapped off activities of the day by visiting the local New Assemblies of God church where she donated roofing material in honour of the late Community Development Worker, Ms Lillian Shilubane who was a dedicated member of the community and assisted in identifying less-fortunate households to get helped.

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