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**Press Release**  
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**MILLIONS TO DELIVER HOUSING PROJECTS AT MKHONDO**

Residents of Mkhondo Local Municipality in Mpumalanga will this financial year benefit from a total of R30 million to deliver 354 government's low cost housing units. This was presented by Human Settlements MEC Violet Siwela yesterday when she handed over about 1800 titles deeds to various households from several municipalities in the Gert Sibande District.

Siwela confirmed that in order to ensure this become a reality, the Department had already been able to deliver 5 152 title deeds in the province during the 2015/16 financial year. "Shelter is one of the basic human rights - that can only be realized through the acquisition of a title deed. For this reason, we have planned to issue 15 000 of such legal document to all our beneficiaries," she stated.

Houses should at all times be viewed as economic assets as ownership encourages investments through renovations and expansions. One of the excited beneficiaries, 78-year old Ms Joyful Mdluli, said that she was always unsettled to live in her house without a legal document. "I always feared that unscrupulous people might come and remove me at any time. I am happy to say that from today no one will remove me from this house - it belongs to me," said the excitedly.

Siwela however pleaded with all the beneficiaries to safeguard their legal documents and not illegally borrow against them. "From today all the beneficiaries will have their dignities restored and livelihoods improved. This proof of ownership further allows beneficiaries to use their houses to leverage their economic circumstances by making additional income," she added.

The delivery which was mainly for Gert Sibande covered neighboring municipalities such as Msukaligwa, Lekwa, Govan Mbeki, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme and Chief Albert Luthuli. Correctly encapsulated in the Constitution, Siwela reiterated that it is pleasing to realize that this will afford everyone the opportunity to live where they choose and to live in decent houses, to bring up their families in comfort and security. Despite the 15 000 title deeds planned to be issued, the Department will further construct 8 620 houses, service 7 466 stands/sites, 100 Community Residential Units, six community halls and child care centers with a R1.3 billion budget allocation.

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ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE  
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ [fngobe@mpg.gov.za](mailto:fngobe@mpg.gov.za)

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