



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PROVINCIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HAILED FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN

Human Settlements Minister, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi has applauded the Mpumalanga Provincial Government for advocating the economic empowerment of women contractors in the delivery of sustainable human Settlements. Minister Kubayi made this assertion during a meeting with contractors and developers at Mbombela Local Municipality. Her visit was to assess the performance of the province concerning human settlements delivery.

Kubayi mentioned that the department's performance has exceeded expectations in ensuring that designated groups such as women are allocated at least 40% and more of the value of the housing projects. "I am very pleased that the department is complying with the policy of ensuring that the youth and woman benefit from the departmental budget. This will strengthen women participation in the built environment and assist them to gain the trade's related skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities," said Kubayi.

Speaking on behalf of the Provincial structure of the South African Woman in Construction (SAWIC), Chairperson, Ms Thembeke Singwane expressed their gratitude to the department for its support to woman in construction. "We had challenges in getting to the construction industry especial human settlements but after we had several engagement with the minister we have seen changes and being accepted. We are now being more recognized by the department and we have built a good relationship. This resulted us being allocated units this financial year" said Singwane.

Later in the day, the Minister and the entourage proceeded to Tekwane South community to issue over 600 title deeds to government subsidised housing beneficiaries. She explained that the issuing of title deeds is one of the priorities for the current Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period (2019 – 24). Other priorities include responding to the gap market through programmes such as First Home Finance and Social Housing, Upgrading Informal Settlements, and the delivery of fully subsidized government houses," alluded Kubayi.

One of the beneficiaries, Gogo Maria Sibiya (87) who was overwhelmed with joy, expressed that she has been worried and living in fear in the past without her title deed: "Our area has some political hostility whereby at times people are being robbed their houses and some are illegally occupying these very same low cost houses without any knowledge who could have given them, hence my worries and so on."

She however, said that she feels safe and different now since she has received her title deed that gives her full ownership to her house. "Receiving this title deed means that I am the rightful owner of my house no one will chase me out of it. Thank you to the department for keeping to their promise and ensuring that we live happily and safe in our own homes," cited Gogo Sibiya. The Minister launched the Title Deeds Friday Campaign late last year which aims at accelerating security of tenure to communities.

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