



**Press Release
08 June 2016**

TWO ELDERLY CITIZENS CELEBRATE THEIR NEW HOUSES

The Department of Human Settlements together with the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality continued government's bid to provide decent houses to disadvantaged households in Boekenhouthoek Village this week (07 June 2016) by handing over 250 low costs housing units' project to deserving beneficiaries. The hand over was part of a build-up event leading to the Presidential Siyahlola Monitoring Programme taking place later this week. The programme provides an opportunity for the President to assess progress in governance and service delivery around the country.

The 250 units were delivered through the Department's People Housing Process (PHP) programme that was completed late last year with a budget amounting to R30 million. One of the beneficiaries, Ms Sana Mkhwanazi (68), thanked the Department for changing her life. "I could not have done this on my own. I really appreciate you for making this possible for me," thanked Mkhwanazi who mentioned that she only survived through the old-aged grant she receives from government and that life has been difficult to raise her grandchildren. The Department is prioritizing mainly the elderly, people with disability and child-headed families.

MEC Violet Siwela indicated that the Department is pleased by the concerted effort to purge the inherited social-ills of homelessness, abject poverty and lack of drinkable water as experienced by locals and other communities in the province. "Having on board the Department of Water and Sanitation, Rand and Tshwane Water assisting to spearhead in this intervention, we are confident that we will begin to realize immense change in this municipality," she said.

The project comprised of 250 and being implemented in various areas of the municipality. The 45m2 houses are constructed through the conventional way of brick and mortar and VIP toilets are provided as a form of sanitation owing to water challenges in the municipality. The project was conceptualized in 2014/2015, implemented during 2015/2016. Since 2002 to date, the Department has delivered nearly 5000 housing units with a budget of R360 million throughout the municipality.

During the current financial year, the department will set processes rolling for township establishments for Vlaaklagte View and Kwa-Mhlanga C. Moreover 100 units valued at just over R10 million will be delivered through rural and farm residential development in various parts of the municipality. In line with our developmental inclined policies, the Department will continue to train 25 young people in the construction sector as part of the Youth Brigade Programme. This will be done to impart skills and development in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency and National Home Registration Council (NHBC).

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