



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CONFERRING PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

To restore dignity, security of tenure and bestow property ownership, Human Settlements Minister, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi and MEC Speed Mashilo recently handed over 105 title deeds to rightful holders at Vukuzakhe B, Volksrust in the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality. This is in line with the MEC's Policy and Budget Vote pronouncements, which reaffirmed that the registration and issuing of title deeds remains the Department's priority. This was preceded by the handing over of the 500 housing units' project delivered through the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme. The first phase of the project was the servicing of stands and later the construction of the government subsidised houses.

In her remarks on title deeds, Minister Kubayi called upon beneficiaries to never sell their houses or use title deeds as collateral to loan sharks. "We want you to have security of tenure; do not sell your houses. Do not even let *'omashonisa'* keep hold of your title deeds", warned Kubayi. While adding that titleholders have a generational responsibility to safeguard ownership, she said that government must go to rural areas and effect rural development.

One of the beneficiaries who received her legal document, Ms Velephi Ngwenya (68) expressed her gratitude for being a titleholder. "Having a title deed is an unmatched feeling, as I now feel complete with the title deed and have a legal claim over the piece of land," expressed Ngwenya. Similar appreciation could be heard from Juana Ngwenya as she took occupation of her house. "I have been living in a shack for a long time; finally, I have a more secure and warm house in winter. The work of government must transcend me and reach others who need shelter", appreciated Ngwenya.

On the same token, MEC Mashilo welcomed the Minister's visit and affirmed the Department's commitment to improving the livelihoods of the previously disadvantaged people. "We continue with our work to better the lives of the people. The project we have just handed over has over 700 serviced sites and we have already completed 260 units out of the 500", said Mashilo. He also added that he is elated by the fact that women delivered the project and Mpumalanga remains exemplary in the country regarding women empowerment and development within the human settlement value chain.

Addressing the residents, Executive Mayor, Cllr. Bheki Mhlanga said the activity honours the municipality and shall continue working jointly with the Department. "We will continue giving the necessary support to the provincial government in housing our people. This will demonstrate this by providing bulk services and ensuring the smooth running of projects in our areas", said Mhlanga. The visit by the Minister was part of a two-day meeting (MinMEC) between her, Provincial MEC's, MMC from Metros responsible for human settlements. The MinMEC session takes stock of performance by government and make interventions and policy adjustments where necessary.

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