



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

Press Release 14 September 2015

DEPARTMENT LAUDED FOR ADDRESSING HOUSING BACKLOG

In dealing with a backlog of unfinished houses in Nkomazi Local Municipality, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements has been commended for revisiting houses left incomplete by unscrupulous contractors in recent years. This emerged at the recent visit by the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature called - Taking the Legislature to People (TLP) – programme undertaken at the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The TLP programme creates a platform for the legislature to undertake an oversight exercise on government's performance and engage communities on service delivery.

During their briefing by the Social Cluster, members of the legislature applauded the Department's improvement in service delivery and coming out of the delivery challenges it experienced in recent years. "It is pleasing that the long outstanding backlogs have been identified and attended to, however, the public will always have issues to raise therefore there is a great need to be prompt", charged Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Mr Thulare Madileng. Another committee member, Ms Patricia Ngobeni challenged project monitors to do their work.

One of the beneficiaries, 45-year old Phumzile Magagula who lives with her four children say she is grateful that her desire to have a house is being attended to. Said Magagula, "I'm glad that my family will have a shelter and I wish the government can continue with this good work". Meanwhile MEC Violet Siwela assured the committee that the Department has developed a turn-around strategy to ensure planning is done in a proper manner. "We are in the process of finalising an ideal organisational structure to be in line with our mandate. Further, we have undertaken to do joint planning with CoGTA and municipalities", she said.

Two contractors have been appointed to complete 163 housing units which were either abandoned or surrendered to the Department by contractor in various villages in Nkomazi Local Municipality. "It is important that a contractor and projects are introduced to benefiting communities to avert challenges and in the process assist in monitoring", asserted member, Ms Violet Nkuna. All the houses are delivered through the Emergency Housing, Rural, IRDP and People's Housing Process (PHP) programmes. The members further urged the Department to ensure that it migrates from the narrow mandate of housing to the broadened integrated human settlements delivery. The Department is expected to attend to all issues raised by the committee pre and during the visit.

**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT PERSON: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630**

