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**Press Release**  
**21 February 2020**

**DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS ILLEGAL SELLING OF RDP HOUSES AT SIYANQOBA**

In light of the allegations of illegal selling of RDP houses at Siyanqoba, eMalahleni Local Municipality the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements emphatically condemns the illegal selling of RDP houses. The Department learnt about these allegations from the media statement by the Democratic Alliance (DA) issued on 20th February 2020 calling on the Municipal Manager, Mr Sizwe Mayisela and MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Norah Mahlangu to investigate the matter.

MEC Mahlangu wishes to reiterate that low cost subsidized housing is meant for the downtrodden and needy beneficiaries. “Low cost houses (RDPs) are therefore not meant for profit by the beneficiaries. Any person found to be renting out a property especially within the 8 year period, will then create the impression that the property is not acquired for the desired purpose, therefore it should be offered back to the Department which alongside with the Municipality will find a qualifying beneficiary as a replacement”, charged Mahlangu. This is in line with the provision of the Housing Amendment Act which prohibits the sale of an RDP house outside a period of eight years (8).

In as much the MEC appreciates the alert from the Democratic Alliance (DA) she cannot hide her disappointment that the DA choose to use the media statement in bringing these issues to light instead of the proper political and administrative channels. “I am, however disappointed that the DA chose to use the media in bringing these issues to light, but we will indeed investigate the matter and intensify consumer education”, she said.

The Department urges all beneficiaries to refrain from selling their houses illegally and advises them to report such illegal transactions. Communities are also advised that there are caveats or clause on the Deeds Registry Records that are meant to prevent the transfer of property without the written consent of the Department.

If the eight year period has lapsed, the Department upon a request usually from attorneys will grant the consent, in a form of Waiver of Pre-emptive right. The risk associated with the purchase of an RDP is that the seller (usually the original beneficiary) remains the registered owner regardless of how many people he/she sells the property to.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**  
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