



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release**  
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## **DEPARTMENT DENOUNCES ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF HOUSES**

Elements of illegality and lawlessness were heavily confronted as the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements and the City of Mbombela handed over a housing project to rightful beneficiaries at Tekwane South. MEC Speed Mashilo strongly deplored illegal occupation of government houses and vowed to continue working with law enforcement agencies to clamp down such a scourge. This was during the hand-over of a 200 units' project at Tekwane South in the municipality. City's Executive Mayor, Cllr. Sibusiso Mathonsi, members of the Provincial Legislature, and police, were amongst those who accompanied MEC Mashilo to suppress the tempers and confront the invasion on site.

Countless issues relating to inept beneficiary list, illegal occupation, project delay as well as Covid-19 restrictions, had hindered the handing over of the houses. "I learnt that the project is ready for hand-over, however I could not just go ahead and give you houses until we had dealt with the issue of a duplicate list which we needed to reconcile and we actually managed to do that because we want to ensure that rightful beneficiaries are the ones receiving the houses", charged Mashilo. He added that the handing over of the houses was of paramount importance as he needed to quell and get those who have invaded houses evicted with the assistance of law enforcement.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Mathonsi echoed Mashilo's sentiments and called on all to desist from dreadful acts of invasion. "As people of Mbombela we are grateful for this project as it continues to dent our obdurate backlog. The 200 units and stands made available here will go a long way", he appreciated. He also appreciated the fact that an additional 80 units will be constructed in the same project to address administrative challenges which had a potential to affect the smooth occupation of the houses.

One beneficiary who received his keys is Mr Andre Markgraff (63), who lives with disability and stays alone. This military veteran used to stay at military base in Nelspruit and later moved to his sister's house. "I have never owned a home before. I am grateful to government for this intervention, we have a community here and people are neighbourly", said Markgraff. His appreciation was not exclusive, as was echoed by Annah Mnisi (90) who stays with her granddaughter from KaNyamazane who said she could not be much happier and dignified to have been afforded a chance to have a place called home.

This is a multi-year project that will see the construction of government subsidised, and bonded houses, school, socio-economic facilities, as well as rental units, amongst others. This strategic development is amongst the many sustainable integrated human settlements projects being delivered throughout the province. Law enforcement agencies will continue maintaining order and working with both institutions to evict illegal occupants and return rightful beneficiaries to their houses. A substantial number of houses have since been occupied by rightful beneficiaries, whilst the illegally occupied ones are speedily attended to.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**  
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