



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **MEC MAHLANGU COMMITTED TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

In its unwavering commitment to women empowerment, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements continues to ensure their participation in the built industry. This sentiment was made by MEC for Human Settlements, Ms. Norah Mahlangu as the country continues to commemorate the Women's Month with the focused aim to women economic emancipation and riding society of the scourge of gender based violence perpetrated against women of South Africa.

MEC Mahlangu reiterated the fact that an exclusive industry to the exclusion of women is recipe for economic nightmare. "Women must actively participate in the built industry so as we can exploit and realize our full potential as a country, an exclusion of women to economic activities contributes to unemployment, poverty and equality", charged Mahlangu. She also added that her Department has set aside a mandatory 30 percent procurement benefit for women.

As a result of the mandatory 30 percent the Department has seen many women making a breakthrough in the men dominated industry. One of the women who has benefited from this policy and cracked the industry is the Director of Yefu Trading, Ms Nombuso Magagula (51) who is an emerging contractor currently constructing 84 housing units at Elandshoek, City of Mbombela in Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

Ms Magagula spoke plainly of her gratitude to the opportunities made available to her by government. "The 30 percent policy of the Department of Human Settlements really helped me a lot as I have grown as contractor. However, it was not easy at first as I was new in the male dominated industry but the Department has been very supportive", cherished Magagula. She further stated that the 30 percent policy has not only benefited her but many other women as she works with ten other women in the project. She called on women to seize the space and opportunity afforded to them and make it worth.

In the current financial year, the Department has also enrolled 41 young women out of 70 beneficiaries through its Youth Brigade Programme. The programme trains and introduces students in construction value chain with a view to empower them for the outside world. The 41 young women will be skilled in roof truss and manufacturing. Another 36 women are enrolled with SETA Construction Programme aimed at giving them practical skills in construction.

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