



Press Release
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RDP HOUSES ARE NOT FOR SALE

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements reiterates its strong condemnation of illegal selling of government houses (RDP) by either beneficiaries, government officials any other persons harbouring this unlawful act. The Department has learnt with shock that these acts have found their way to whatsapp groups and other social media platforms as forms of advertising. It is regrettable that these manifestations come amid several complaints made to the Department and lately to the media by beneficiaries whom their houses have not been given to them yet someone is occupying the house.

This scourge has continued despite government's constant communication and awareness against illegal selling of RDP houses. It is evident that these perpetrators enjoy some monopoly market where they get potential buyers. Thus, the Department wants further call on buyers of these houses to desist from participating in illegal transactions and undermining service delivery as well as government policy.

MEC Speed Mashilo has explained the fundamental legislative framework in this regard. 'Settlements sector is well legislated and regulated in these circumstances. The Housing Amendment Act provides for a prohibition on the sale of an RDP house outside a period of eight years (8)', explained Mashilo. He added that, according to the Act, if a beneficiary intends selling the house within the eight year period, such should be offered back to the Department and that no purchase price will be payable to such a beneficiary.

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.

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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