



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Press Release
01 January 2018

RESTORING DIGNITY TO MILITARY VETERANS

Government is pulling every stop to ensure that immense contribution made by military veterans from various forces to wage war against apartheid governed are recognised. Nearly 90 beneficiaries are currently received much bigger and decent houses from the Departments of Human Settlements and Military Veterans. Human Settlements MEC in Mpumalanga, Speed Mashilo has been criss-crossing the province handing over houses to deserving beneficiaries in various municipalities recently. The military veterans are being honoured for their indisputable and peaceful contribution towards the liberation of the country.

Mashilo has visited eMalahlani, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities. In his recent trip to Wesselton, in Ermelo, MEC Mashilo appreciated the military veterans for their incomparable commitment and dedication to stand against all in serving the country with passion. “Being in the military is challenging and requires a lot of courage, determination and a bit of bravery. What you have done for the country would never go unnoticed. We are proud of you hence the decision to intervene where you encounter challenges,” remarked Mashilo. He professed that the Department’s decision to build for the military veterans comes as a result that most of them left their homes in their early ages only to come back to live in slums.

Mashilo declared that as part of the Department to encourage healthy living in sustainable integrated human settlements, they are working in conjunction with the Department of Military Veterans to ensure that the lives of all struggling former military veterans is improved. It is a priority for government to look after military veterans who sacrificed so much of themselves and time to fight for their beloved country. Gogo Saida Sibitane (87) is one such a selfless patriot who did her duty for South Africa in the 1980s in countries such as Zambia and Mozambique. To thank her for her service, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements recently gave Sibitane a brand-new much bigger house.

Sibitane reminisced of her ordeal of being placed at the Mozambique-South Africa border post where she would smuggle young men to the neighbouring country for military training. She was placed along the border line to monitor the situation. “The apartheid soldiers use to come and destroy all our structures where we camped and I had to endure torture from the apartheid soldiers and RENAMO insurgents”, recalled Sibitane who resides in Mbangwane near Malalane in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, Mpumalanga.

Mashilo also used his visits to the areas to also issue title deeds to restore dignity and bestow property ownership to rightful beneficiaries. The Department has an approved implementation plan to deliver on a number of services during the current financial year. These include 8 358 housing units, 4053 sites, 26 000 title deeds, 208 Community Residential Units (CRUs) and 87 houses for military veterans, amongst others.

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