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STEADFAST HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DELIVERY

The quest to deliver integrated human settlements continues across the province with the recent one being the Vukuzakhe A & B Township in the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. The project has 984 units completed with basic services such as electricity, running water and sanitation. It has improved the standard of living in area and restored dignity to many families who for years have been residing in shacks without basic services. The latest visit to the project was during the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) programme held in the locality.

The Economic and Social Transformation Cluster Committee visited the area to assess and monitor progress, delivery of houses and have first-hand reaction of community about government's delivery. The Committee's take on the project was fulfilment with the progress made thus far since its last visit late last year. "We are pleased with the speedy progress made and ultimate completion of the project. When we arrived here last most houses where on slab level and now we see completion", said Committee Chairperson, Ms Jeaneth Thabethe.

The committee took a tour of the project and visited one of the families who benefited from the project. One such family was the Simelane household of eight that has been living in the area for years without a decent shelter. Speaking with the committee, Mr Sonnyboy Simelane (40) expressed his delight on how the project has changed their lives. "We struggled a lot, fought hard for this development and life has changed", he charged. He continued to state that the project also gave socio-economic relief to the destitute community as he benefited as a labourer in the project.

Representing the community, Ward 3 Councillor Tebogo Hlakula reported to the committee that the Department worked cordially with the community thus no stoppages suffered by the project. "The community was in partnership with the Department and took ownership of this development, with over 70 percent of labourers were sourced from this ward.

Other completed projects across the municipality are servicing of 232 sites and construction of 232 Top-structures both at Wakkerstroom. The Department further completed the construction of 100 top-structures at Daggakraal, 204 units in Perdekop as well as 140 top-structures at Amersfoort. All these projects combined were delivered at the cost of over R260 million budget. The TLP programme is an exercise by the legislature to hold the Executive and government on service delivery. Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane will officially close the week long programme.

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