



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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HOUSES FOR TWO ELDERLY GOGOS

In what could best be described as an exciting and most rewarding day of their lives, two elderly women in their nineties, Gogos Sophy Jiyane and Emma Ntuli received newly built houses from the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements this week at Madubaduba, Dr JS Moroka Municipality.

Gogo Jiyane (97) couldn't help herself but danced her heart out with excitement when she was being led into her new house. The delighted Jiyane made an inspiring remark when she amusingly said that it is worth dancing to the end of her puzzling days of distress.

Equally excited was the wheelchair-bound Gogo Ntuli (94) who lives together with her adopted son, Mzwakhe. Ntuli used to live in one constricted room with a curtain separating the kitchen and Mzwakhe's bedroom. Their living conditions were uninhabitable and spiked the attention of the Department and the media.

"Times were tough in this family. I can only say thank you for the boy (Mzwakhe) who has never thought of forsaking me even a single day. I am glad that he played such a huge role in exposing our plight to the ministry to come and help us. Thank you for your rapid intervention – we appreciate you," echoed Gogo Ntuli.

During the official handover of their two houses MEC Violet Siwela vowed that despite the challenges of bulk infrastructure and lack of building sites in the area, too much focus is on helping the elderly, the disabled and child-headed families get decent and quality houses. The 100 units' project has so far delivered 50 houses at various areas of the municipality.

"We are working hand in glove with our municipalities to make sure that our people receive the best service possible despite the few challenges we are faced with. We are highly encouraged by the National Department for nominating us second runner up in the country during the 2015 Govan Mbeki Awards for our adequate delivery of quality houses to the people of Mpumalanga.", concluded MEC Siwela

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