

REMARKS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. VIOLET SIWELA,
DURING TITLE DEEDS HAND OVER CEREMONY AT UMJINDI
COMMUNITY HALL, UMJINDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.
EHLANZENI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, 18 JUNE 2015.

From today - that dream to the families we visited this morning and hundreds gathered here today has been fulfilled.

As you may be all aware, the department goes beyond at just delivering houses, but ensuring that people live in an integrated and sustainable manner.

All people shall have the right to live where they choose and to live in decent houses, to bring up their families in comfort and security.

We are gathered here in the spirit of Service Delivery to all of you, the beautiful people of Mpumalanga – **The Place of the Rising Sun.**

This government remains caring and committed in making the lives of you the people far much better than we were 21 years ago.

During the previous government, people did not have full security of tenure to their properties or houses. This government is on a serious mission to restore dignity to people.

After all, there is no government without its people – for the people and with people. The Department has committed to deliver ten thousand Title Deeds during this financial year.

This campaign started in Msukaligwa in April, moved to Steve Tshwete and eMalahleni Local Municipalities.

Today – Umjindi and Mbombela are other beneficiaries of our delivery machinery as we will be issuing over 400 title deeds.

To be precise – Umjindi has a total of 283 and Mbombela 119 which will benefit households at Extensions 11, 12, 14 and 15 in this township whilst Mbombela benefited handsomely when we had the same delivery two years ago.

This delivery is certainly not the last for these two and other municipalities. As houses are being delivered and registered in the deeds office – communication will be intensified with municipalities to engage them in bringing yet another delivery in the coming years.

Security of Tenure means that, you the beneficiary have a guaranteed permanent right to occupy your house. “FOREVER IN YOUR HOUSES” - is that not good?

A Title Deed is proof that you - **beneficiaries** - have a guaranteed permanent right to occupy your house. These Title Deeds cannot be photocopied.

Once you temper or photocopy the Title Deed – then become null and void. You must keep them safe and store them properly.

Our celebration today is the realization of government’s efforts of restoring dignity and giving full home ownership to these beneficiaries has finally come to an end.

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Hundred of beneficiaries of low cost houses are now rightful owners of their houses built few years ago in this region.

Our gathering here marks a great achievement in the history of the municipality and its communities.

It is not only a commendable feat for the municipalities, but a substantial improvement to the over **1000** beneficiaries of governments' low income houses.

From today, all the beneficiaries seated here will have their dignity restored and livelihoods improved.

The issuing of title deeds forms part of government's bigger plan to improve the lot of ordinary citizens.

A Title Deed is not just an ordinary piece of paper, but legal document that ought to be valued by every beneficiary – for it is important.

The ruling ANC is very clear that there must be great focus on human settlements as another priority for government.

The focus on this important portfolio is to rid the country of informal settlements and squalor.

Given this marching order by the ruling party, what is then required of this department is to improve its planning and deliver on this requirement.

The mushrooming of informal settlements and scarcity of land can be attributed to the 1913 Natives Land Act. The Act meant that Blacks were deprived of their rights to shelter.

As a result, the majority became homeless - a situation which forced them to go work in mines, domestic work, and generally inferior jobs.

Over the last 100 years, this situation deprived people of better opportunities and compounded their lives by breeding more life disparities.

The huge housing backlog that we see today is as a result of the introduction of the Act in 1913, which immediately declared all Africans to be homeless.

IMPORTANCE OF TITLE DEEDS

According to the country's Constitution - every person has a right to decent housing, clean water, health and education.

On shelter – as one of the basic human rights - that can only be realized through the acquisition of a title deed.

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Houses should at all times be viewed as economic assets as ownership encourages investments through renovations and expansions.

This in turn triggers business opportunities in the household and the area.

Ownership further allows beneficiaries to use their houses to leverage their economic circumstances by making additional income.

Title Deeds are important as they allow beneficiaries to access finance from financial institutions for renovations and funding for business opportunities.

Acquiring a title deed enables a beneficiary to have the house as an asset, offer sense of pride and belonging.

From the municipal perspective, property ownership compels the owners to pay municipal rates and services received, thereby contributing to its ongoing financial viability and economic sustainability.

Beneficiaries will now be able to use their title deeds to improve their dwellings, to acquire household's goods and make use of capital borrowing against their properties and to start small businesses.

In essence, their households can also be used as an asset to build wealth.

Furthermore, houses are social assets in a sense that they can be transferred to descendants, they offer a sense of pride to owners and a sense of belonging to communities.

The Department's mandate is to create integrated human settlements and improve households' life.

Beneficiaries will use the title deeds as a legal document that reflects the ownership of their properties.

RATE OF ISSUING TITLE DEED

The issuing of title deeds facilitates the registration into the names of the housing beneficiaries, ensure provision of security of tenure for housing beneficiaries, and ensure the lives of beneficiaries are continuously and economically improved.

Title deeds will continue to be handed over through out the province as soon as they are released by the deeds office.

I would like to urge the beneficiaries to safeguard their title deeds and use them to improve their livelihood.

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CONCLUSION

This year marks a new era for the fifth administration to accelerate service delivery.

The ANC led government is still committed at improving people's lives by tackling the three social ills of **poverty, unemployment and inequality**.

As the 2016 Local Government Elections looms, it is important that all understand government's role in society. Equally so, communities ought to be responsible and pay services as provided by municipalities.

And I believe that none of you seated here are defaulters when it comes to payment of services.

To all beneficiaries go out there and be responsible citizens.

Today's delivery is not the last though; more services by this government, especially this department are still coming here and elsewhere.

To some of you - LEMINI IYEZA NAKUWE.

"Together Moving Mpumalanga Forward"

Ngiyabonga.