

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. M.A GAMEDE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
KLARINET INTEGRATED PROJECT HAND-OVER
KLARINET, eMALAHLINI
16TH APRIL 2014

Programme Director: Mr. V. J Mtsweni
Executive Mayor: Cllr S.F Sithole (eMalahleni Local Municipality)
Executive Mayor: Cllr S Mashilo (Nkangala District Municipality)
Executive Mayors Present
Members of the Legislature
Members of the Executive Council
Councillors
Head of Department
Municipal Manager
Social Cluster Members
Business Representative
Private Institutions
Officials from the Department and Municipality
Members of the Media
Distinguished Community Members

INTRODUCTION

Since 2009 the department embraced a new approach of delivering services in an integrated and sustainable manner.

The broadened mandate and alignment requires the department to create integrated and sustainable human settlements.

It is also about transforming cities and towns into cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with easy access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities.

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The Department will now no longer just implement houses, but play a larger role to coordinate, facilitate and support the provision of all the elements and aspects that constitute a sustainable human settlement.

To measure performance, government has set out clear targets and priorities to be delivered.

The department's priorities are informed by **Outcome 8** that includes among others – improvement of access to basic services, improved property market, more efficient land utilisation, and accelerated delivery of housing opportunities.

The projects handed over today will surely improve and benefit the lives of this municipality in a sense that they talk to our vision of integrating society and fostering social cohesion.

To realize these policies, the department has to align itself to the pronouncements by the ruling party.

In its January 8 Statement, the African National Congress (ANC) made it clear that there will be a 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.

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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.

In preparing for the roll-out massive projects, the Department will put more emphasis on developing economic active and growing towns.

The mandate requires the Department create integrated sustainable human settlements by coordinating all plans and delivery machinery with all stakeholders within the built environment.

There is a growing trend that more people from rural areas are moving to developing areas in search of better job opportunities.

We have to focus on where people are moving to and towns for employment and better living conditions.

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The province has a huge demand for housing in especially the municipalities of Mbombela, eMalahleni, Msukaligwa, Govan Mbeki, and Steve Tshwete, hence the need for a clear focus to these areas as primary nodes.

We are from Rockdale at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality this morning where we performed a sod-turning exercise to start the roll-out of integrated projects.

Such a delivery will mainly to deal with informal settlements in that part of the province. I must say that municipality has a better plan of managing human settlements issues.

Our gathering here is to celebrate another feat at this much talked about Klarinet Integrated Human Settlements Project. This is the province's pride and has earned us accolades within the human settlements space.

The project which has so far delivered **2063** units is implemented by Absa DevCo and jointly funded by the eMalahleni Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements, Department of Energy and Absa Bank.

The responsibilities of the main parties are described in the overarching Joint Implementation Development Agreement that was signed by the parties in 2008.

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Through the joint input of the parties involved in the projects, integrated, mixed mode housing solutions, as well as sites for education, business, public open space, sport and other facilities required to establish a quality work-live-play environment.

Interventions such massive projects as this one will help the province deal with a myriad of housing demand and also help to create social cohesion through the provision of different housing typologies, where people of different economic classifications will live side by side.

Most importantly this will also make a dent in reversing the imbalances created by pass legislation such as the 1913 Natives Land Act.

The huge housing backlog that we see today is as a result of the introduction of such a discriminatory legislation.

Having said that, meeting here this afternoon is to show how this government and the ruling party are moving this country forward.

NEW APPROACH

The Klarinet Integrated Project came as a result of the introduction of the comprehensive approach of housing delivery – Breaking New Ground (BNG) formally adopted the principle of creating government subsidized housing assets.

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Our broadened directive requires the delivery of services – including title deeds – in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

Projects like Klarinet ought to deliver much required social and economic facilities where people can play, fellowship, and study. These include day care centres, churches, sport facilities, libraries and community halls like the one being constructed within this project.

CONCLUSION

On the **07th May 2014**, the country will have to elect a government of their choice through the ballot. This exercise is a strong position that our democracy is fast maturing.

Few political parties are there and some are emerging. To be true to the democratic course, the African National Congress will ensure the sustenance of this course.

This can only be achieved by voting for clear and developmental policies which the ANC is all about.

As we depart – let us have Happy Easter Holidays.

Amandla.