

**ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. M.A GAMEDE  
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
MKHONDO PROJECTS AND TITLE DEEDS HAND OEVER  
PIET RETIEF RUGBY STADIUM  
26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

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Programme Directors: Mr. P.S Shube and Mr V Motha  
Executive Mayor: Cllr B.H Mtshali (Mkhondo Local Municipality)  
Executive Mayor: Cllr N.P Nhlabathi (Gert Sibande 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**

Our gathering here marks a great achievement in the history of the Mkhondo Local Municipality and its community.

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.

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.

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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.

In manifesto, the African National Congress (ANC) makes 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.

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.

Our gathering here today is about service delivery – which this government and the ruling party are all about.

Our first project which falls under the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme was approved in the 2013/14 financial year to deliver 62 low income houses with the total budget allocation of **R5 million**.

The project had economic spin-offs for the locals through job creation and sub-contracting.

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The delivery of these projects is part of the province's rural development drive – Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) – to benefit this municipality as identified as one of the poverty stricken areas in the province.

A total of 100 job opportunities were created during the roll out of the project benefiting mainly locals (8 female adults, 11 male adults 48 male youth)

Another project that we launched is the Enhanced People's Housing Process Programme.

The project was approved in the 2013/14 financial year to deliver **256** low income houses with a budget allocation of **R20 million**.

The approval of the project was an endeavour to restore the dignity of the 256 families that were living in informal settlements without basic services.

The project will assist in improving the living standard, job creation and the economic benefit.

The allocated units are being delivered in various areas, namely eZiphunzini 100, Rustplaas, 50, eMagadeni 56 and Driefontein.

During delivery, 100 job opportunities and 12 for local FET College students as part of skills transfer were created. Two local women are responsible for concrete block manufacturing.

In keeping with the green environment, we have planted trees and gave some to the households to ensure that our environment is clean and sustainable.

I would like to thank all the contributions made by sponsors, government departments, agencies and business people. This is indeed a noble course toward the development of our society.

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**NEW PLANS**

In the current financial year new projects have been planned to benefit this very same community.

The delivery will include **318** low income houses, **186** title deeds and launch of new projects worth **R51 million** that include **375** housing units, a community hall and a child care centre.

The projects will be distributed in the following areas:

<b>AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
Thandukukhanya, Sithulihleza. (Community Hall & Child Care Centre)	Social and Economic Facilities	02
Various Areas	Military Veterans	10
Phoswa	People's Housing Process	100
Mahamba Road	Informal Settlements Upgrading	100
Driefontein, eZiphunzini and Emagadeni	Informal Settlements Upgrading	65
Oosloop	Rural Housing (Communal Land Rights)	100

**CONCLUSION**

In less than two weeks, the country will be going to the polls on the **07<sup>th</sup> May 2014**. Most of us here we have a constitutional obligation to go and vote.

To sustain this hard earned democracy – let us embrace these elections and go out there and vote in large numbers. But most importantly is to vote correctly.

Thank You.