

SPEECH BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. VIOLET SIWELA DURING THE
HAND OVER OF TITLE DEEDS AT THE SYDNEY CHOMA BANQUET HALL,
STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.
1st DECEMBER 2015.

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.

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.

Such a delivery is in line with the principles of the Freedom Charter which committed that everyone has a right to housing, comfort and security.

From today - that dream to the families we visited and some who will still benefit from government services will be fulfilled.

Correctly encapsulated in the Constitution, 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.

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Ensuring that this becomes a reality the Department has brought a total of about 1200 Title Deeds to be handed over here today.

Of this number, we have been able to already deliver a total number of 7500 title deeds in other various and neighboring municipalities.

Of the 1200 to be handed over today, we have invited also beneficiaries from Msukaligwa, Emakhazeni, eMalahleni and Victor Khanye to be part of today's delivery.

The Title deeds campaign started at the beginning of the year at Msukaligwa Local Municipality and with our target being to issue 10 000 title Deeds this financial year.

With today's delivery, the Department would have so far restored dignity to over 8500 households – and we are still continuing.

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

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

As the local government elections approaches, we are all urged to be clear in our minds and embrace what is right.

By right I mean choosing a correct party that has brought about the freedom we all enjoy today.

“Together Moving Mpumalanga Forward”

I thank you