# 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. 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015.

### Executive Mayors: Clr M Masina (Steve Tshwete Local Municipality) Clr N Ngwenya (Nkangala District Municipality) Other Executive Mayors Present Members of the Executive Council Members of the Provincial Legislature Executive Mayors Present Councilors Head of Department Representatives from National Department Municipal Manager Cluster Members Business Representatives Government Officials, Title deeds Beneficiaries, and Members of the Media

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and warm greetings to you all for honouring this event.

We are extremely excited as the Province of the Rising Sun to have welcomed back to work our Premier who hasn't been well for few months.

It is certainly appropriate to conclude that under his leadership the province has seen remarkable successes and indeed, has done well to improve and mitigate the inherited socialills of poverty, unemployment and equality as far as the delivery of service is concerned.

This not only good news the province has received; we were highly honored two weeks ago to welcome the notable visit by the Honorable President Jacob Zuma - who visited the province on his monitoring and evaluation campaign - Siyahlola Presidential Programme.

Quite certainly this had portrayed a very fundamental role for the ANC-led government to sternly interact with the water-challenged communities to provide amicable water solutions.

Programme Director, it is however our call not only to provide people with sustainable houses but to also ensure them with adequate services and provide them with affable solutions to lead a healthier and better-off livelihood.

The Department's redefined mandate requires the delivery of services – including title deeds – in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

Since the birth of the new order in 2009, the Department together with municipalities and other stakeholders is hard at work ensuring that mega projects are delivered.

Over the last year, we have been hard at work to deal with a number of aspects that are proving to be challenges to the department.

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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