

MEDIA BRIEFING STATEMENT BY MPUMALANGA HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
MEC, HONOURABLE VIOLET SIWELA DURING TITLE DEEDS AND PROJECT
HAND OVER AT SIYATHEMBA TOWNSHIP, DIPALESENG LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY. 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015.

Executive Mayor: Clr NS Nhlapho (Dipaleseng Local Municipality)
Executive Mayors Present
Councilors
Head of Department, Mr. K Masange
Municipal Manager
Social Cluster Members
Business Representative
Project Contractor
Government Officials, and
Members of the Media

Greetings to all who have joined us this afternoon.

The Executive Council has adopted an approach to deliver services in a coordinated manner.

This we hope - will be achieved through the recently launched Operation Vuka Sisebente delivery model (OVS).

The model is aimed at increasing coordination and communication amongst different stakeholders and across sectors within communities.

Over the last few years this municipality experienced the so called service delivery challenges.

Those protests which at times turned violent did nothing but distracted our communities and derailed development in some instances.

But I must commend the manner in which the local leadership which was often aided by National and Provincial government rose to the occasion in mitigating the challenges.

With the OVS approach – communities and civil society will be brought together to trash out issues of common concern – way before they spiral out of hand.

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The government ushered action orientated communication approach is poised at ensuring that delivery is done in a sustainable manner.

Now that this model is being introduced to communities in a form of War-Rooms, society must begin to have engagements at grass root level.

If well coordinated – our communities will be developed and bring about much needed growth.

Early this morning we visited some households around the township to give them title deeds and houses.

This is a delivery which gives full ownership to property and restores hope to the homeless.

Such a delivery is in line with the convictions 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.

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.

Inclusive of the few we issued out at the households, the Department has brought a total of 457 Title Deeds to households within this municipality.

Beyond that we are also handing over 352 Title Deeds to the Emakhazeni Local Municipality – which we invited to be part of this delivery trail.

The Title Deeds campaign started at the beginning of the year at Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

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With a target of issuing 10 000 Title Deeds this financial year, the Department has so far restored dignity to over five thousand households – and we are still continuing.

This delivery included beneficiaries from Steve Tshwete, eMalahleni, Mbombela, Umjindi, Victor Khanye, and today we are here at this municipality.

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.

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

Beyond the issuing of Title Deeds, the Department has also handed over a housing project to deserving beneficiaries this morning.

Delivered through the People's Housing Process, Informal Settlements Upgrading Programmes, 150 households now have decent shelter and a place to call home.

The **R15 million** projects managed to employ 70 locals inclusive of youth and women.

Members of the media, as a Department we are mindful of the scores out there who still need shelter.

But with partnerships from government, private sector and municipalities - we remain resolute that our vision of delivering integrated sustainable human settlements will come to fruition.

Those of you who will be joining us tomorrow, we will be continuing with our delivery trail at Lekwa Local Municipality.

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Once again, let me commend the municipality in the manner in which it handled delivery challenges in the recent past and support for today's delivery.

“Together Moving Mpumalanga Forward”

I Thank you