

MEDIA BRIEFING STATEMENT BY MPUMALANGA HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
MEC, HONOURABLE VIOLET SIWELA DURING TITLE DEEDS AND PROJECT
HAND OVER AT SAKHILE TOWNSHIP, LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
(STANDERTON). 18TH SEPTEMBER 2015.

Executive Mayors: Clr M Nhlabathi (Gert Sibande District Municipality)
Clr LBR Dhlamini (Lekwa Local Municipality)
Clr L Masina (Lekwa Local Municipality)
Clr PV Malatsi (DR Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Municipality)

Councilors

Head of Department, Mr. K Masange

Municipal Manager

Social Cluster Members

Business Representatives

Project Contractor

Government Officials, and

Members of the Media

May I take this opportunity and greet you all in this room.

Let me commend the municipalities for joining hands with the Department in ensuring that services are rendered to people out there.

Honourable Executive Mayor, Clr Dhlamini welcome on board, we wish you well in your new portfolio.

Since the beginning of the financial year, the Department of Human Settlements just like any in the Province has been hard at work rendering services to communities.

But our journey has been different.

Question is how different? – Well it has been and continues to be about restoring dignity to households.

The South African Constitution mandates the Department to provide adequate housing and integrated human settlements.

This conviction befits our extended mandate of delivering human settlements in a coordinated sustainable manner.

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Those of you who have been keeping track or documenting this journey will recall that the Department has long shifted its focus on service delivery.

Simply put – human settlements ought to ensure that economic growth and social development are in balance within a given time.

This will in the process bring about sustainable development.

Just yesterday, we are at Dipaleseng Local Municipality where we issued nearly **800** title deeds for that municipality and Emakahzeni.

As reflected in that briefing, we have a target of delivering 10 000 title to surpass that target.

Whilst remaining positive about our feat – one must indicate that as a province we are doing very well in this regard as compared to our counterparts in the country.

Just today we visited few households bestowing full ownership to them.

If the excitement we are witnessing as beneficiaries are receiving houses and title deeds are anything to go by – then this government is doing well.

In the interest of time and ensuring that we are not deterred in our endeavour to give rights to property ownership, the Department has since April 2015 issued **4 562** title deeds to several households.

Today we have brought together three municipalities under one roof to be amongst the beneficiaries. The delivery of these important documents is broken down as follows:

Lekwa Local Municipality	: 564,
Govan Mbeki Municipality	: 914, and
Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme	: 375.

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From today full ownership to property and restoration of hope to the homeless has been bestowed.

Besides offering a sense of pride to households, a title deed enables home owners to make decisions to improve their livelihoods,

Beneficiaries can be able to use them to improve or develop their dwellings.

Part of today's visit at the Lekwa Municipality was to officially hand over 60 housing units.

The **R7.3 million** projects managed to employ about 35 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.

For this financial year, the Department is delivering 550 IRDP Phase 2, and **111** Informal Settlements Upgrading at a total budget of **R84 million**.

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

In closing, may I appeal to all municipalities to embrace the recently launched Operation Vuka Sisebente (OVS) model which aims at increasing coordination and communication amongst stakeholders.

I humbly implore the Executive Mayors to engage their administration and CoGTA to ensure that the War-rooms which OVS advocates are established for better coordination of communities.

Members of the media, this is a good story we are telling today as the ANC led government.

Once again – **“When the Sun Rises, Mpumalanga works harder to deliver”**.

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I thank you