



human settlements
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TaseKHAYA

Department of Human Settlements

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Editorial Comment



Mr Freddy Ngobe
Head of Communications

The year 2017 has been declared the “Year of OR Tambo” – former President of the African National Congress. Tambo was born on October 1917 and was the longest serving President of the ANC, holding that position from 1969 to 1991. Government has since coined messages to be in line with his convictions and ideals in bringing about development in the country. Tambo was a freedom fighter, opposed to racism and sexism and a teacher.

Talking of development, the department had an eventful three months where it conducted a number of stakeholder engagement sessions to tackle governance, administration and general service delivery challenges bedeviling municipalities in their respective corners. The councilor induction programmes and MEC’s meeting with municipalities (MUNIMEC) helped to unearth some of the persistent challenges government is grappling with on a continuous basis.

Some challenges were sharply raised at the Public Participation/Engagement event held at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality during this quarter. The gathering exposed a myriad of discrepancies in the management of beneficiaries, allocation of houses and general delivery of houses within the locality – a situation which MEC Speed Mashilo feels has to be packaged and properly actioned in the subsequent months. On a more positive note were comments by Parliament’s Portfolio Committee when it visited the province during this period.

Led by Chairperson, Ms Nocawe Mafu, the committee held various meetings with officials from the Department and five

municipalities to engage on state of service delivery in the municipalities. Central to the inspections was to assess progress made in the construction of houses, coordination and management of beneficiary list and incorporation of backyard dwellers into the provincial housing data base and inroads made in the issuing of title deeds.

What is also worth mentioning was the participation of key stakeholders during the Nelson Mandela International Day campaign(s). The province had a series of events at the Dr Pixley Isaka Ka Seme Local Municipality. Doing its bit, the departments symbolically built two houses for elderly citizens in the area and others such as City of Mbombela and Victor Khanye Local Municipality. As part of social responsibility, Maphuti Land Surveyors identified a needy family at Msogwaba near Mbombela and built them a decent house. This was a good gesture to give back to the community. Lastly, we congratulate all the winners for the Provincial Govan Mbeki Awards.

Well, that’s it for now - enjoy this edition

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BEST BUILT STAKEHOLDERS HONoured

There is a new trajectory in the realisation of integrated and structured development in Mpumalanga. Over the years, the country has been subjected to skewed planning patterns and inept service delivery designed along racial lines. The advent of democracy in 1994 ushered in a people inclined legislations and government’s developmental programmes aimed at ensuring that the welfare of communities is improved – and in the process – deal with the three social ills of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The much needed and directed planning is premised along the country’s development blueprint, the National Development Plan (NDP). It emphasizes the ideals of the South African Constitution that mandates the Department

of Human Settlements to provide adequate housing and integrated human settlements to eligible beneficiaries. The outcome prone plan ties the Department to realise sustainable integrated human settlements and improved quality of household lives.

This was realized during the annual Govan Mbeki Awards (GMA) to celebrate and honour tremendous work by stakeholders in the built sector. The awards which took place at the eMalahleni City Hall, acclaimed excellence and concentrated quality as depicted in the progress made. Opening the ceremony, Human Settlements Head, Mr Kebone Masange bare it open that the Department was not in any way primed to fail or compromise its services; hence

there is so much concerted effort to ensure that houses of good quality are built.

“This sector is one of the most complex anyone could ever know. There is so much that comes with it and everything of it must be done in the right way,” explained Masange. Despite appraising much of the good work that has been done, Masange also took a swipe at underperforming contractors saying that the Department would not give anyone any blanket approach in case they failed to deliver on time but send them straight out to the cold. He said, “It is proper for us to appreciate the good service however, that does not mean we should not point out any sloppy work done and such would not be left unpunished.”

As strides are being made towards the realization of the order, the Department and stakeholders continue to improve on the foundation enunciated in the Freedom Charter, the White Paper on Housing, the Housing Act and the Comprehensive Plan for the creation of sustainable human settlements. True to its objectives, several stakeholders within the sector were honoured during the recent awards ceremony at eMalahleni Local Municipality. They were named after Mr Govan Mbeki - a stalwart member of the ruling party (ANC).

Nokuthula Mashile a 36 year old woman contractor that recently won two awards, namely Best Youth Emerging Contractor and Best Military Veterans Project said that, “I joined the housing project two years back and I’m always striving for recognition. And to win an award was a bonus me and my team. She was delighted that she won an award provincially but she is also eyeing recognition on the national stage. Her team, Asishiyelane Supply aims to set the bar higher in service delivery.

Ms Dion Mhlongo (44), a woman contractor has been constructing houses construction for 17 years. Her company, DR Bongane recently won an award as an Established Woman Contractor for the year. The Govan Mbeki Awards have created a competitive environment and an improvement in the quality of service delivery since their inception. MEC Mashilo concluded by urging contractors to strive to work with speed and accelerate the pace in



SWEET SUCCESS: DR Bongane shone during the glamorous Awards evening at eMalahleni Civic Centre

the provision of basic quality services. Meanwhile Human Settlements MEC, Speedy Mashilo said housing provision is biased towards needy beneficiaries He said RDP houses were meant for the elderly, child headed families and people living with disabilities. “We must go back to basics. Young men shouldn’t expect government to build houses for them; instead they should work hard and build houses for their families” said Mashilo. The awards encourage contractors who

make government proud by producing good quality houses across the province. The GMAwere initiated in 2006 to encourage and showcase excellence, best practices and recognise exceptional performance in the human settlements delivery value chain. They first started as the Housing Awards under the then Department of Housing which mainly focused on delivering units as opposed to integrated sustainable human settlements. The overall winners in all the ten Competing Categories were:

| | |
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| Baphi Investment | Best Informal Upgrading Project |
| Shirido Trading | Best Integrated Residential Development Programme |
| KD Madonsela Trading and Projects | Best Rural Housing Project |
| LLG Projects | Best Non-Subsidy Market |
| DR Bongani Investment | Best Established Women Contractor |
| Asishiyelene Supply | Best Youth Emerging Contractor |
| Prince of Tides | Best Community Residential Units |
| Umziwethu Holdings | Best Finance Linked Individual Subsidy (CRU) |
| Govan Mbeki Local Municipality | Best Accredited Municipality Level 1 |
| Steve Tshwete Local Municipality | Best Accredited Municipality Level 2 |

MEC’s Merit Awards:

| | |
|--|--|
| Asishiyelane Supply | Best Military Veterans Project |
| Best Bulk Infrastructure Development (Engineering) | CMP BEE Civil Engineering |
| Best Bulk Infrastructure Development (Sites Servicing) | Sefako Engineering (PTY) (LTD) |
| Best Conveyancer | Singwane and Partners |
| Best Enhanced People’s Housing Process | Msuthu Properties |
| Best Supporting Media House | Ligwalagwala FM’s Current Affairs (National Radio Station) |

Successful overall winners from provinces will compete with their counterparts from other provinces at the National GMA ceremony scheduled for later this year in Gauteng. Once again, congratulations to all the participants and winners of the GMA 2017.

NEW PROPERTY REGULATIONS TO PROTECT HOME OWNERS

An opportunity has arisen in the property sector to pluck some “low-hanging fruit” and meaningfully deal with the triple threats of unemployment, lack of transformation in the economy and disintegrating infrastructure. This comes amid the publishing of the Property Practitioners Bill for comment in March 2017 and is winding its way via public hearings across all Provinces towards Parliament. The Province had an opportunity to engage in debates and make comments on the proposed Property Practitioners Bill. These included various financial institutions, estate agencies and the National Home Builders Registration Council, amongst other stakeholders.

The bill has clear objectives of transforming the racial profile of the real estate industry while radically improving consumer protection for home buyers. Several initiatives now present a real opportunity to make a significant difference by creating thousands of new jobs, transforming the profile of the sector and preserving SA's crumbling property assets.

The asset value of the property sector is massive: in 2016, the Property Sector Charter Council put the sector's value at R5.8-trillion. Of this, the formal residential portion which are homes registered at the Deeds Office, are by far the biggest, worth R3.9 trillion which is an all-round of 6.1 million registered homes.

New regulations for the Sectional Title Schemes Management Act of 2011 tackle the issue of neglected maintenance of many sectional title schemes; and a new national building inspector qualification is expected to be accredited in this year. This qualification will provide training benchmarks for inspectors employed in the public and private sectors.

The development of the qualification has been supported by a task team of experts drawn from powerful industry players including the Banking Association SA, various municipalities, the National Home



LEADERSHIP ROLE: Acting DDG, Mr William Jiyana addressing the audience at the Public Participation meeting for the new Property Bill.

Builders Registration Council, the National Association of Building Inspectors, the South African Home Inspection Training Academy and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications.

The qualification has the potential to create many new jobs, raise standards in the construction industry and improve consumer protection for buyers of existing homes. The Property Practitioners Bill is being driven by the Estate Agency Affairs Board which, like the National Home Builders Registration Council, falls under the Department of Human Settlements. The idea is to replace the inefficient and largely ineffective Estate Agency Affairs Board – much resented by most estate agents – with a new body; the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority.

PARLIAMENT APPLAUDS IMPROVEMENTS IN HOUSING DELIVERY

The apparent inadequate bulk infrastructure came under the spotlight from Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements during its recent visit to Mpumalanga. The committee which visited the province as part of its oversight programme on government's work bemoaned bulk sewer and water infrastructure challenges at few projects in Govan Mbeki and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities. The visit was to assess programmes and progress on the implementation of comprehensive integrated human settlements projects in the province.

Led by Chairperson, Ms Nocawe Mafu, the committee held various meetings with officials from the Department and five municipalities to engage on state

of service delivery in the municipalities. After the meetings, the Committee visited various projects amongst others, Breaking New Ground (BNG), Informal Settlements Upgrading, Serviced Sites and Integrated Residential Development Programme projects at the City of Mbombela, Thaba Chweu, Govan Mbeki, eMalahleni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities.

Central to the inspections was to assess progress made in the construction of houses, coordination and management of beneficiary list and incorporation of backyard dwellers into the provincial housing data base and inroads made in the issuing of title deeds. Addressing the entourage, Mafu stated

that the purpose of the visit goes far beyond oversight, but in essence is to look at the challenges facing the Department in delivering services to the people and that the Committee seeks to promote and enhance intergovernmental relations and co-operative governance principles in the delivery of human settlements services.

The impressed Mafu said that as a committee they did not mean to come and police the Department and municipalities but to offer support: “Remember the budget for human settlements for Provinces comes from the National Department which we must oversight as the portfolio committee. So when we do oversight we then also need to follow the

money allocated to provinces to see if it still carries out the purpose it is meant for,” she highlighted and noting that despite a few challenges picked up there has been a lot of improvement since their last visit in 2015.

Accompanying the committee, Head of Human Settlements, Mr Kebone Masange indicated that the improvement comes after the Department had a number of meetings with municipalities in a form of road shows where they were checking even the beneficiaries list in making sure they are compliant with the Department’s policy.

The allocation of houses is biased towards senior citizens, people with disabilities, orphans and child headed households. “We welcome the input of the portfolio committee, the bigger challenge that we are facing are lack of bulk infrastructure and illegal invasion of houses, but we are working close with municipalities to ensure that rightful beneficiaries get their houses” he charged. The vigorous visits concluded by requesting the Department to instantly compile a comprehensive report on the state of bulk infrastructure in municipalities which affects



DELIVERY: Mr Kebone Masange (Head of Human Settlements) addressing a delegation during the first leg of a Portfolio Committee visit at Tekwane

human settlements delivery in the province. This as it appears that such a challenge is a common feature in some parts of the

country. The Committee has a constitutional mandate to conduct oversight of all organs of state including government departments.

SUMMIT PRIORITISE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INTERGRATION



DEVELOPMENT: Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and MEC, Speed Mashilo take a moment to exchange pleasantries ahead of the deliberations.

Urban development and integration were at the top of the agenda of the Human Settlements Development Summit which took place at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg recently. The Summit was convened out of consensus in the Human Settlements MinMEC that there is a need to pause and reflect on the direction taken by Human Settlements Development.

The Summit also looked at shifting trends and how policies could be refined to meet delivery challenges speedily. There are five commissions that will look at scenarios for human settlements policy and programme choices, re-imagining finance for housing and human settlements development programmes and integrated development and the new urban agenda in South Africa, among other things.

Minister of Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu urged the Commissions to

explore and adopt the principle of inter-governmental contracting and agree on roles and responsibilities, funding arrangement. The model of inter-governmental contracting will replace the current accreditation practice. Furthermore, Mayors were required to attend at least two MinMECs a year - this will mean that government moves at the same pace in the same direction.

Minister Sisulu said “This Summit represents our collective determination to meet the demands of rapidly growing and changing human settlements in South Africa and the subcontinent some of which have been outlined. When we

leave this venue tomorrow, we must at least walk away with a renewed sense of deliberate purpose in the development of Human Settlements. We must each carry away a share of the moral, leadership, administrative and innovation burden to push our systems and programmes individually and collectively in the direction of sustainable human settlements development”.

According to a discussion document “Integrated Urban Development and the New Urban Agenda in South Africa”, which has been prepared for the summit, planned urbanisation should be a priority for the South Africa if the

country wants to meet the goals set out in the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP has estimated that by 2030, the urban population will grow by an additional 7.8 million people.

The discussion document also says that South Africa’s national urban policy, the Integrated Urban Development Frameworks (IUDF) also highlights the urgency of addressing the rapid urbanisation taking place within the country. It says that projections estimate that by 2030, South Africans residing in the urban areas will constitute 71.3 percent and this will increase to at least 80 percent by 2050.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES CAPACITATED ON GOVERNANCE



INPUT: Ms Thoko Matsebula contributing to the discussions during interaction with stakeholders

Councilors are the face of government at a local level. These men and women deal with communities that are ever in demand for better living conditions. As if dealing with people is not tough enough, communities sometimes resort to violent protest in cases where they consider the development of their areas to be dragging deliberately. It takes sound leadership and communication skills to handle service delivery issues. It is therefore imperative that councilors are equipped with necessary skills. A Human Settlement Councilor Induction session was held at Nkangala District Municipality in July 2017 to equip councilors on their role in municipalities and

tools that are available to deliver integrated human settlements in order to guide sound decision-making at local level. The induction session comprised of numerous detailed presentations on programmes of the sector, priority was given to issues and programmes most relevant to municipalities and where councilors can and should have greatest influence.

The role of councilors in the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) was discussed. Municipal councilors should be involved in the community participation phases of the upgrading process. This commonly includes meetings

with residents, community leaders, local community based organisations, non-governmental organisations, and municipal officials.

These meetings may involve establishing local level committees as well as scenario planning workshops to investigate the development options for a settlement. Councilors may also provide support to communities seeking to initiate an upgrading project in their community or to support households in registering and applying for a housing subsidy.

Councilors showed great interest in the topics presented. These were among others, overview of human settlements legislation, policy and government housing programmes, the Role of local government in the delivery of human settlements, Human settlements planning, Funding framework for human settlements, National Housing Needs Register and selection of beneficiaries, Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme, Rental housing, land invasion and evictions and the role of human settlements state entities. Robust discussions later commenced and delegates shared their thoughts on topics, as they desired. The two-day session was fruitful.

A PRODUCTIVE MANDELA MONTH FOR ALL



OWNERSHIP: MEC Speed Mashilo, Mr Phillip Shikwambana and Mr Aaron Mbongeni Lukhele pose for a picture with Ms Dlamini after she received her title deed

As Tata Nelson Mandela once said “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements took part in the Mandela Month campaign by ploughing back to the community in honouring the legacy of Tata Mandela. The Department successfully improved the lives of residents whose living conditions were in a very poor state, therefore in need of serious intervention.

Beneficiaries were identified in different municipalities across the province. The Department joined the province when it kicked off the campaign by participating in a Mandela Day event held at Wakkerstroom Ward 05, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Local Municipality. Symbolic construction of two houses for the elderly was done and food parcels were handed over to beneficiaries.

Benefiting handsomely was Ms Thembisile Khoza (31) the eldest and guardian to her siblings based in Tekwane North in the City of Mbombela. Ms Khoza and her family resided at Msogwaba under a horrible condition in a

one roomed house. It all began to change when her mother died and she had to see to their welfare. The demise of their father did not help matters either, but nearly tore the family apart. They lost hope. She found herself and her sisters living in abject poverty.

Excitement was the order of the day for this child-headed family of ten when they received a newly built, fully furnished house and groceries provided to them with the help of the Department together with Maphuti Surveys the company that build RDP houses. This was just the beginning for the Department to further bring more joy and excitement to communities. The campaign proceeded to Thandokukhanya, Mkhondo Local Municipality where two families were identified for assistance.

Municipal officials identified the Nkosi family to benefit from the campaign because of dire living conditions they were enduring. Mr Mandla Paul Nkosi (47) together with his wife Ms Thokozile Mngomezulu, their five sons and one daughter, depend on child support grant of four of their children. MEC Mr Speed Mashilo and the Mkhondo Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Clr

Vusi Motha painted and officially handed over a house to the Nkosi family. New furniture and food parcels were also donated to them. Ms Nonhlanhla Nelly Dlamini (58) together with her husband, Mr Aaron Mbongeni Lukhele and four (4) daughters were also in a jubilant mood after their RDP house which was set alight in 2016 by one of Mr Lukhele’s relatives, was renovated, new furniture and food parcels were provided. MEC Mr Speed Mashilo also

handed Ms Dlamini her a title deed of her RDP house. The Department went beyond the 67 minutes campaign given all the activities it undertook throughout the province during the Mandela month. From the disabled child who was provided with a wheelchair, to the elderly people whom their RDP houses were renovated and fully furnished and most importantly to all who received houses – much to their delight and reason enough of a caring government.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT KEY FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

At long last, Gogo Mildred Zikalala and Nonkululeko Salusalu both in their seventies in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality have finally received their newly built government low cost houses from the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements this week at Embalenhle during a Human Settlements Imbizo on 06 July (Thursday) 2017. The over R50 million project of 500 housing units was delivered through the Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme which seeks to eradicate among others; dwellings in shacks, mushrooming of informal settlements and the occupation of derelict mud houses.

The Department engaged on a public participation session at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality. The engagements gave the locals an opportunity to raise issues affecting them and a leeway for the Department to involve them on strategies to unlock challenges. MEC Speed Mashilo assured the gathering that the Department will deliver on its mandate.

“The Department’s mandate is to house people correctly, not everyone needs houses but others require land and rental units. Given that the area’s main challenges are land and illegal invaders, the Department will make an effort to negotiate with mines that own some of the land and purchase it for those who require it”, MEC Speed Mashilo committed.

The Department took notice of the mushrooming of informal settlements and attributes it to the high number of mineworkers that are without proper housing. The MEC promised the community that the Department will make sure informal settlements are eradicated and all those in need of rental units will be provided for through a Community Residential Units Programme. He further gave guarantee that twenty



AT WORK: MEC Speed Mashilo leading a campaign of handing over houses to deserving beneficiaries across the Province

five percent of the MEC's budget will be used to construct roads in the Municipality.

Apart from the public participation the department symbolically handed over two houses at Embalenhle Extension 22. The two houses are part of five hundred units which

are under construction through the Informal Settlements Upgrading programme. A 59 year old Ms Nonkululelo Salusalu is one of the beneficiaries who benefitted a house on the day. "The thought of living in a shack brings tears to me because I lived in a shack for many years. A decent

warm house brings comfort to my family" stated Ms. Salusalu during the handover. A delighted 88 year old Ms. Paulina Mimi Shokwe received her title deed on the day. "Thank you for thinking for us since we no longer have the energy to do things we really need to be taken care of," she remarked. Five title deeds were handed over to other four elderly citizens during the event. The title deeds are part of the 634 which were to be handed over at a later stage.

The Department is prioritizing title deeds in order for the rightful beneficiaries to legally own their properties. Part of the delays of giving out title deed is because some of the areas in the municipality are not registered with the deeds office. The Department will in future apply for a title deed will as soon as the application of a low cost house is approved with the intention of handing the document and the house at the same time.

MAPHUTI SURVEY SERVICES GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY

"A gesture displayed during the Mandela Day Celebrations"

At part of the Nelson Mandela Day celebrations, the Director of Maphuti Land Surveyors, Mr Titus Masenya had decided to donate a house to a disadvantaged family in Pienaar, Mpumalanga. The Mkhonto family was identified family was identified to benefit. The family consists of 10 members (2 adults, 2 teenagers and 6 children) that were sharing a two-roomed house with no windows.

Their mother passed away in 2012 and they never knew father because he left when they were still very young. Ms Thembisile Mkhonto who is the eldest, 29 years old, was forced to be a mother and bread winner for her siblings after their mother passed on. It was not easy for her because she wasn't educated. She has 2 children of her own, namely, Siyanda and Dimpho.

Mr Masenya wanted to give back to the community. He is funded the housing project and his partner in the construction

industry, Mrs Ntombi Ngobeni from Liga 4 Trading (Pty) Ltd supplied furniture. Mr Maphuti was helped by Mr Michael Maseko to identify the family because of his knowledge of the disadvantaged families in and around Pienaar.

Mr Maphuti said "when we arrived at the house we were surprised as to how can 10 people live in such a small house with no air ventilation? Even during the day it is so dark because there are no windows." The situation was really bad. Mrs Ntombi Ngobeni from Liga 4 Trading said, "We are shocked by the predicament in which the Mkhonto family finds itself".

On Mandela Day, Maphuti Surveyors donated a fully furnished house worth about R200 000.00. The house was handed over to the child headed family by the MEC of Department of Human Settlements, Mr Speed Mashilo and Mr Titus Masenya with in the presence of community

members and department officials.

Words can't explain how happy the Mkhonto family was as well-wishers gathered at their newly built house. MEC Mashilo explained to the children that they should look after the house and each other. They should continue loving each other and protecting each other. Their living conditions had changed and life was only going to get better from here on.

To date the Family is doing very well. Thembisile said life is much better and that her siblings are happier and they don't easily get sick like before. They are even doing better at school. She added that the comfort they live in now makes life easier. She feels life is just worth living. She explained how her son asked her who Mandela was. She said she told him that Mandela was a Father to the nation but that he was no longer with us yet his spirit lived on. It's so amazing how the life of these has been changed all thanks to Mr Masenya.