



human settlements
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TaseKHAYA

Department of Human Settlements

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GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS

Editorial Comment



Mr Freddy Ngobe
Head of Communications

South Africa's housing market has shown resilience in spite of a sluggish economy which fell into a technical recession in the second quarter. A reputable property group company hopes to see an improvement in the housing market as the younger generation is eager to buy property. Notwithstanding two quarters of negative growth, a weaker rand and external factors such as a brewing global trade war and rising oil prices, the housing market has seen some "bright sparks", with the younger demographic eager to buy property and a financial sector with an appetite to extend mortgages, Pam Golding CEO Andrew Golding said.

Remaining undeterred, the department continued with its mandate to facilitate the creation of integrated human settlements. A case in point was to honour stakeholders who played a meaningful role in bringing about positive developments within the sector. The

accolades delivered through the annual Govan Mbeki Awards recognises best practices, excellence and encourages the culture of positive competition to ensure the realisation of integrated sustainable human settlements. Notwithstanding the economic downturn, positive interventions through this campaign and the issuing of title deeds to rightful beneficiaries were made. Such interventions to households can only mitigate the slothful economy which is said to continue for the balance of 2018.

At the peak of this quarter – as far as service delivery is concerned – was the interventions made on the infamous KaNyamazane Disaster in the City of Mbombela. Over 2000 houses were damaged by heavy storms and as a result government devised some means – temporarily and long term - to intervene during the disaster. The May hailstorm required urgent intervention from all spheres of government to ensure that the impact is minimised. An assessment of the damage was conducted, temporary tents provided and the department activated its emergency programme.

Despite the prioritisation of the matter, the communities of KaNyamazane, Ntokozweni and Tekwane took to the streets decrying what they labelled slow

pace of rehabilitating their houses. The matter caught the attention of Premier Refilwe Mtshweni who swiftly moved in to ensure that order is restored and project is being expedited. Unfortunately looting, damage to property and violence enveloped the matter to a point where safety and security agencies were brought in – much to the delight of ordinary citizens whose lives took a knock during the chaos. After serious engagements with the community and the local leadership, more contractors were added to increase capacity to deliver on the matter with speed.

On another matter of national significance, the country and the province in particular celebrated Women and Heritage Months. These important periods were commemorated amid year-long plans and programmes designed under the 100 Years Centenary Celebration of former President, Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. The two icons made a significant impact in bringing diverse South Africans together. As we look at the quarter that was and much needed services to people, we ought to continue the legacy of the two icons – Tata Madiba and Mme Sisulu – by inspiring others.

That's it for now. Enjoy your read

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MANDELA DAY BRINGS SMILES TO SAD FACES

Yet another contribution towards commemorating Madiba's centenary by participating in the 67 minutes Mandela Day Campaign was made this month. MEC Norah Mahlangu, officials and stakeholders visited two families at Nokaneng Village at Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality

Gogo Jane Lekalakala (92) received a fully furnished house and groceries thanks to the Department and the contractor who constructed her RDP house. The MEC led officials and

community members in activities to add finishing touches to the elder's house. Electrical wires were installed; window glasses mounted and walls were painted.

The brightly painted house was testament to the beauty of great things that could be achieved by sincere efforts of people geared towards making a difference in someone's life. Everyone had something to do and it was a wonderful experience. Gogo Jane Lekalakala expressed her heartfelt gratitude to MEC Mahlangu and the entire team for what they

have done for her. She also praised and urged Mahlangu to do same to the others who are in need of government support. She also received food parcels during the hand over.

Orphaned Oupa (22) years old and Francina Khoza (24) years old also visited by the MEC. The Department had appointed a contractor to build them a house earlier this year but, he passed away when the house was at a foundation/slab phase. A new contractor was subsequently

appointed to finalize the construction project. Symbolic construction was undertaken by the team led by the MEC with the aid of the contractor. Food parcels were donated to the Khoza family.

As uTata Mandela once said what counts in life is not the merely fact that we have lived, it is what different we have made to the lives of others that determines the significance of the life we lived. To be free is not merely casting off one's chain, but to live in a way that respect and enhances the freedom of others.



RELIEF: The Khoza child-headed family received food parcels during Mandela Day

MATTAFIN RESIDENTS BENEFIT DURING MANDELA CENTENARY CELEBRATION

“Government calls on all South Africans and the international community to join in the centenary celebrations. Be it in their workplaces, schools, churches and civic organisations, as we reflect on the immense contribution these icons and global figures bequeathed our fledgling democracy,” Inter-Ministerial Committee chairperson, Jeff Radebe said.

During the State of the Nation Address, His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa said, “ We have dedicated this year to his memory and we devote our every action, every effect, and every utterance to the realisation of his vision of a democratic, just and equitable society”

The Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation led government departments in the Mandela Centenary celebrations. On the 27th September 2018 the Mpumalanga Government visited a developing rural area near Mbombela, called Mattafin. The aim of the event was to build up to the bigger event which was held at the Riverside Government where the honourable Premier unveiled the statue of Nelson Mandela, renaming all the building at the Legislature and the unveiling of the new name of the central reference Library.

The Department of Social Development identified 20 beneficiaries in the area and a Cooperative ran by locals. Ward Councillor, Mr Kenneth Mkhonto handed over all the items to beneficiaries. The beneficiaries received blankets, cutlery and crockery,

garden equipment, wheelbarrows, vegetable parcels, clothing and 5 motorised chairs. A Cooperative called Bhasisa received 5 Garden Rakes, 5 Garden forks, 5 garden shovels, 5 garden slashes and 4 bush cutters.

Ms Martha Khumalo and Ms Nomasonto Mthethwa both received refrigerators from the Provincial Treasurer. Ms Khumalo, who is living with a disability, said that she was grateful for what she received from government. It is important that we use the capabilities we have, wherever we are stationed in life, in a way that dismantles the unequal structures of power and protects the most vulnerable. All of us must commit to continuing Madiba's work; fight poverty and inequality; strive to eradicate the growing scourge of racism; and reckon with the history of oppression”, said Mr Sello Hatang, Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

It's amazing how a few people can come together and make such an impact in the lives of others. As much as we could not influence or change the lives of the people of Mattafin but it goes without saying that a little goes a long way.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

On the 29th of September the Mpumalanga Government commemorated Heritage Day at Riverside Government Complex in one of the most honourable manners ever imagined. South Africans celebrate Heritage Day by remembering the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa. Various events are staged throughout the country to commemorate this.

The former honourable Premier of Mpumalanga Province, Hon. DD Mabuza said in his state of province address “The Celebrations of the centenary by declaring that the province will, amongst other activities be renaming the Riverside Government Complex and unveiling a statue of Nelson Mandela at the Riverside government complex later in the year”.

Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni unveiled a 6 metre bronze statue of former President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. This event form part of the many Nelson Mandela Centenary Commemorations currently on the go in the province. It was characterised by addresses by the Premier, Mayor of Mbombela Cllr Sibusiso Mathonsi, guests singers, poetry renditions, cultural performances, messages of support from the Mandela Foundation and different races took time to celebrate Madiba's heritage.

The statue stands at the entrance to the Mpumalanga Legislature building. Not only was the legacy of Madiba honoured but that of Ms. Albertina Sisulu and other freedom fighters, by renaming the different government buildings and assembly of cenotaphs at the Legislature Building. South Africans are encouraged to celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to its entire people. It's safe to say Tata Mandela influenced each and every person in South Africa, by fighting for us to have freedom



MONUMENT: The statue erected in honour of the late former President, Nelson Mandela stands in front of the Mpumalanga Legislature Building (now Baobab Building).

in diversity and not being afraid of who we are and what we stand for. Mr Mandela believed that there is value in every person and that all people have worth. He was the epitome of statesmanship – he was sincere and principled – he said what he believed and believed what he said. He had a strong moral compass and stood firmly on the bedrock of truth and integrity, he was a visionary and was able to see what was good for the people and more importantly, his fundamental philosophy was ‘to do what is best for my people’ and not just myself.

Heritage starts with understanding the next person’s belief and tradition. What society would live in if we didn’t respect other people and their tradition? Tata Mandela is the founder of Heritage day because he united us and helped us see that as much as we are one, we have diverse cultures. In his final speech before being sentenced in 1964 Madiba gave us a hint of his South African dream – paraphrasing, he said:” The ideal of a free and democratic society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities ... is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.” Surely when all South African come together to celebrate the different cultures and beliefs, this would be his dream come true.

Madiba forms part of every South African’s heritage. His legacy will forever be a part of our heritage.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENES ON STORM RAVAGED HOUSES

The community of KaNyamazane Township and surroundings in the City of Mbombela continued to receive aid from the Provincial Administration following the May 2018 heavy storms that ravaged over 2000 houses. The heavy rains affected several parts of the City with the most adverse effects were felt at KaNyamazane, Tekwane and Ntokozweni. Since the incident, government ensured that an urgent assessment of the disaster is undertaken and interventions are employed to ensure that their welfare is attended to.

The Department appointed a consultant to assess the extent of the damage and established that 2 130 houses were affected. Four local contractors were then appointed to rehabilitate the houses in the three areas. One of the contractors was given the responsibility to remove asbestos roofing whilst the other three are mandated to repair the walls, erect trusses, roof, ceiling and in other instances rebuilding a house anew.

The unfortunate happened when the community took to the streets protesting against what they called slow pace in restoring their houses. The protests were partly caused by rumors of monies meant to rehabilitate the houses being allegedly squandered and some political agendas being driven. Despite these protests which took nearly three weeks, the Department held several engagements

with the affected parties to find an amicable solution to the impasse. Work had to be halted to ensure that security and safety agencies restore calm in the area where looting, damage to property and intimidation were the order of the day.

Relentless in its efforts for intervention, work to restore storm damaged houses resumed in earnest. Treating the matter with the seriousness it deserves, Premier Refilwe Mtsweni joined in and held several engagements with the community and visited few houses at the height of the protests to assess progress on site. During her visit, she expressed her approval with the progress thus far and instructed the contractors to prioritise all houses that remain roofless mostly in ward 21. ”Much as the community protests had an effect to the work on site, houses will be prioritized and contractors have been instructed to increase their personnel to ensure maximum delivery”, she stressed.

A series of meetings between the Department of Human Settlements and the contractors were held in an attempt to address all administrative challenges regarding the scope of work and community concerns. “Our meetings yielded positive results as we have agreed on rates and payable amounts per house, thus serious progress will be realized in the coming days”, assured Head of Human Settlements, Mr. Kebone

Masange. The media made frenzy out of the situation and even suggested that the Department is incapable of dealing with the disaster – something which Masange dismissed as he continued to constantly engage with them.

The Department has to address confusion and reports of contractors not wanting to sign their service level agreements (SLAs) for the work at hand. “Damages on the various houses vary; therefore costs to be allocated to each house will equally differ. Simply put, each house will be treated on its merit and work done gets verified by the project manager thus enabling the processing of payments”, continued Masange.

The matter received attention from the Executive Council and National Government to the point that Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize made a stop to the province during his visits to ailing municipalities. The Department has earmarked R19 million for natural disasters throughout the province in the current financial year and a request for an additional R119 million funding has been made to the National Department of Human Settlements. To this end, additional twelve contractors have since been appointed to ensure that capacity is being increased on the ground to address the damaged houses within the stipulated period.

GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS 2018



LOCAL STUDENTS EQUIPPED ON ELECTRICAL SKILLS

The Department of Human Settlements has together with Tazi Investments adopted sixteen Electrical Engineering undergraduates to help fortify their skills through practical work at various building projects carried out by the Department in the Province. The students, who are currently in their second term of study with the Forek Institute of Technology, are involved in a 48 units project in Malekutu, City of Mbombela Local Municipality, where they have since proven to have the ability to complete installation of electricity at a minimum rate of four houses a day.

The Institute's Thamsanqa Masombuka affirmed that this was not the first project they worked on and they are committed to continue doing well to gain recognition which will afford the students with more exposure: "Their electrical skills are good. They follow the plan provided to them by the contractor and then start with their installations," explained Masombuka who mentioned that their goal as an institution is to groom quality artisans across the country to ensure that they acquire the necessary skills needed to benefit both private and public sectors in the field of electrical engineering. The Department has appointed Tazi Investment to construct 108 units in the municipal

jurisdiction of which 48 are in Malekutu. Speaking of their involvement and impact, Tazi Investment Director Mr Sizwe Taitai said that they are gratified with their decision to capacitate local people with the required skills. He said, "These opportunities will help them improve their chances of getting a job when they complete their studies. We can only hope that everyone, particularly our fellow business people can adopt the culture of helping one another and transfer skills to the young and aspiring businesspersons."

The Department has committed to deliver a total of 8266 units and 2 720 sites during the 2018/19 financial year. However, MEC Norah Mahlangu stressed that the delivery of Human Settlements depends entirely on the availability of bulk infrastructure. She however, asserted that the Department will implement the approved Social Enterprise Model to maximise the involvement of communities by empowering them and to create employment.

"As directed by the Executive Council, 2018/2019 will see the Social Enterprise Development Programme being implemented throughout the Province as opposed to just the seven pilot local municipalities, as was the case in the previous financial year," she said.



SKILLS TRANSFER: Ms Dimakatso Ngwane and Ms Tercia Mngwenya testing the meter box immediately after installation.

PROVINCE UNITED IN HONOURING ICONIC WOMEN

It is admirable to see how women's role in history continues receiving recognition within the past three to four decades. Formerly, Women in South Africa faced several trials which included the struggle for freedom of expression, community rights and gender equality, sadly all of which were greatly ignored. The country had heroines such as Mrs Albertina, Helen Joseph and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, amongst others. These women, amongst others fought for the rights of women and ensured that women were acknowledged for the pillars of strength they are.

August 9th 1956, about 20 000 women marched to the Union Building in Pretoria. The march aided against the "pass" laws which government had then regulated. The pass laws served to limit the movement of all non-European pupils

outside their homelands or designated areas. People of colour were thus forced to carry the pass at all times or otherwise imprisoned. In 1995, subsequent to the end of apartheid, the seeds sown by those women during the march were reaped. The 9th of August was officially declared as National Women's day. Today it is viewed as one of the many significant South African public holidays.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government together with other provincial departments hosted an enjoyable commemoration with the purpose of honouring National Women's Day with the public at Kwaggafontein stadium on the 9th of August 2018. The day began with legacy projects from the various departments. It followed with exhibition where women within different sectors showcased their

products. Women icons were honoured through issuing of awards. The day ended with live entertainment from Dr Malinga and other local artists. The Department of Human Settlements contribution on the day was provision of two fully furnished houses. Seventy six year old Ms Martha Mahlangu and 64 year old Ms Martha Monareng from Phola Park were the fortunate beneficiaries who were graced with a visit from the honourable premier, MEC for Human Settlements as well as the MEC for Safety and security who officially handed over these houses to them.

It is pleasing that the country continues to annually embrace and celebrate the victories of our heroines. It is of greater importance that women in South Africa continue with the same spirit - "Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo".

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TITLE DEEDS



OWNERSHIP: Ms Lilly Mahlangu (middle) is a proud legitimate owner of her house after receiving a title deed from the Department.

"I wanna be there when the people start to turn it around, when they triumph over poverty; I wanna be there when the people battle against AIDS, I wanna lend a hand, Thuma mina". Words derived from the late legend jazz musician Hugh Masekela's song.

These were the same words which President Cyril Ramaphosa quoted during his presentation of the State of the Nation Address. With that said, he launched a campaign named "Thuma

Mina". The campaign aids in proficiently serving the people of South Africa. During the months of August and September, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements took part in the "Thuma Mina" campaign where title deeds were handed over at Mkhondo, Mbombela and Dipaleseng local municipalities. Just over 1000 title deeds were handed over to beneficiaries within the three municipalities. Majority of these beneficiaries were elderly people as they are more

easily exploited to dilemmas such as invasion of their well-deserved houses. A title deed is a document that proves legal ownership of property in terms of the Deeds Act 47 of 1937. The document contains all necessary details and important information about the property such as a comprehensive description and exact size. It gets filed at the Title Deeds offices in various areas according to where the property is situated.

A title deed has a great impact on the life of the owner as well as his/her dependants. It is a very important document as it is necessary if the owner of the property wishes to sell their property or even register a property, or in the case of wishing to transfer the property (house). Having a title deed also provides greater protection against a claim for adverse possession of land by an unauthorised occupier.

Title deeds owners need to note that it is only on the date the legal transfer has been noted at the Title Deeds office that the new owner can take the occupation of the house/ flats/ serviced stand. It is the Bank's Attorney who will immediately notify the new owner once the date of the transfer has been confirmed.

It is clear that title deeds are a very delicate and vital document. Government-subsidised home owners need to ensure that they are familiar with the document, its purpose and to keep their title deeds safe.

STAKEHOLDERS SHINE AT THE GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS

The cooperation between government and its stakeholders has proven to be resolute and thus must be enhanced at all material times. This is the view of Mpumalanga Human Settlements MEC Norah Mahlangu when she addressed outstanding contractors at the Provincial Govan Mbeki Awards (GMA) ceremony held at Sydney Choma Hall, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in September 2018. She likened the relationship between government and stakeholders to a marathon which requires stamina and focus to secure ultimate accolade.

The annual awards are aimed at to promote excellence, recognize and honour stakeholders who are playing a pivotal role in human settlements value chain. "The Department hopes that the

awards will continue to be a programme that will trigger enthusiasm and motivate all to make the province proud of its contractors and other stakeholders," said MEC Mahlangu. The enthusiasm ought to translate to speedy and quality service delivery to communities.

In dealing with the growing backlog, she invited everyone to take part in the resolution thereof. "When one considers the huge backlog and challenges facing the industry; it is befitting to urge all partners to join hands in service delivery. Human Settlements is a social responsibility, hence the call to join forces and have a common vision to shelter our communities," she urged.

The enhanced mandate compels us to

ensure we facilitate the development if integrated human settlements with proper and basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and all other amenities to households. Human Settlements Head, Mr Kebone Masange echoed same sentiments that settling people is impossible without active involvement of all stakeholders.

"We need to work together and share common vision as we discharge this responsibility," he said. The stakeholders in particular contractors, were lauded for their sterling performance from the previous financial year, which saw the department exceeding its targets in delivery of 8 173 housing units with 561 units. The category winners are: Best

IRDP: Sizampilo Projects, Best Emerging Woman Contractor: Tinongo Trading Enterprise. All the provincial winners will compete with their provincial counterparts at the national level scheduled for November 2018 in the Eastern Cape.

Informal Settlements Upgrading: Sukuyimani Construction, Best Established Woman Contractor: Motheo Construction Group and Best Emerging Youth Contractor: Motheo Construction Group.

Motheo Construction Group, Best Rural Housing: Yourtrade 62, Best



WINNER: Motheo Construction Group scooped the Best Informal Settlements Upgrading and Best Established Woman Contractor

LEGISLATORS URGE GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE THE POOR

Ordinary South Africans must be the first beneficiaries of what the constitution dictates on service delivery. As part of its function and mandatory role the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature held its oversight programme Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) in the first half of the year at Bushbuckridge and Dr JS Moroka Local municipalities.

The provincial government took the legislature to the people in a bid to engage them on government's programs and delivery of services around their area. These areas are no stranger to violent service delivery protests. However, locals say they are glad to see government officials as they are sometime clueless of what is happening in their communities.

The Department of Human Settlements presented progress reports and plans pertaining to service delivery in line with its mandate, in a quest to ensure housing for all and access to social amenities. The Department of Human Settlements has planned deliver 2 780 new housing opportunities at Bushbuckridge Local Municipality in

this financial and it will create more job opportunities for the locals. The Department has over the previous financial year committed more services for the communities around Bushbuckridge with title deeds issued in various villages, servicing of sites and assisting of the municipality with bulk infrastructure services.

Currently in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality the Department is working in various sites implementing projects totalling to 450 units. Given the socio-economic nature of the municipality, the projects are from People's Housing Programme (PHP), Farm Worker and Rural Programme. Presenting the report, the Acting Head of Human Settlements, Mr Doctor Nkosi bemoaned enemies of cohesion as they hamper on effective and efficient service delivery.

"The elements of wardism and tribalism have derailed much of our work in many areas, and it is a challenge we have to navigate around as we strive to deliver houses", he said. In ensuring the delivery of integrated

human settlements, the Department is mandated to provide social amenities to communities of Mpumalanga.

The social amenities include among other things community halls and child care centres. The Department built a community hall and child care centre in Lefiswane and Digwale respectively. Members of the community can use the hall for social events such as weddings and community gatherings or any other function they may wish to host. The child care centre makes provision for childhood development both academically and socially.

During public hearings, community members raised a lot of issues; those of relevance to the Department were on the need for more social amenities. Public hearings are meant to take note of issues raised and respond accordingly, thus the issues on a demand for more social amenities were noted and taken to petitions for consideration in future planning. The Mpumalanga provincial government has vowed to continue to take the legislature to the people, in order to intensify service delivery.