



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

Attending a recent communicator's forum at Boksburg in Gauteng recently, one was exposed to a very insightful journey on the focus of the sector in the next five years. The session attended by communicators and marketing practitioners from national, province, agencies and local government reflected on the journey that has been traversed by the department during the previous period (2014 - 19) as a clear diagnosis to prepare for the new term. A lot came to the fore as detailed and insightful information was presented – something that brought wisdom and to a certain extent armed

us better in the execution of our mandates. Deputy Director General, Mr Joseph Leshabane from the National Department of Human Settlements took the meeting through a long journey unpacking the plans of the new epoch and implications for the attendees. His point of departure was the essence of the National Development Plan (NDP) in the quest to implement priorities for the next five years (2019 – 24) in relation to Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (as a reconfigured Ministry).

During the first quarter of 2019, the country suffered its worst decline in economic activity in a decade and one of the sectors contributing to this decline is the construction industry. The worrying figures posted after the 1st quarter's economic activity data released in May do not paint an encouraging picture at this moment, particularly with regard to the construction sector. Executive Director of the Master Builders' Association, Western Cape (MBAWC), Allen Bodill, said despite these challenges, a concerted effort by both government and the private sector could turn the industry around.

"Obviously we are very concerned about the number of liquidations and business rescues we are seeing in the industry. Our own

members are also acutely affected by the prevailing difficult circumstances," he said. A general dearth in government spending and infrastructure projects, coupled with political uncertainty and its resultant effect on investor confidence, has seen many industry players of all sizes, being brought to their knees. In terms of government spend; in his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Cyril Ramaphosa said the government would be taking a new approach to construction.

This edition (TaseKhaya) will focus on the plans to deal with the upgrading of informal settlements through the UISP, accountability by the department during the Taking Legislature to the People (TLP), and activities by the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) and celebrations by the province during the Africa Public Service Day (APSD). In taking something from the Boksburg session, it is clear that there is a need for having consistent and sustained government messages, community engagements and outreach activities. Also important will be to profile all recorded progresses, acknowledge deficiencies – plan and intervene through proper business plans.

That's it for this quarter. Enjoy this offering.....

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PARLIAMENTARIANS PLEASED WITH MEGA HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROJECTS

Parliamentarians in Mpumalanga are pleased with the Department of Human Settlements' continued quest to deliver mega-integrated projects. During this year's visit by the Legislature to Mashishing at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, the Social Transformation Cluster Committee responsible for Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) received a report stating that the Department has serviced 2300 sites in Mashishing, built a community hall with the capacity of 550 people and a Child-Care Centre to the tune of over R3 million.



HAPPY : Dr David Dube facilitating the debates during the Taking Legislature to the People in Mashishing.

Both structures have since been transferred to the local municipality affording the community to use the facilities for private and public activities. Despite the positive delivery, the community launched their grievances on the illegal selling of government-subsidised houses in the area - alleging that the conduct has spiralled out of hand.

One of the furious community leaders Mr Joel Ledwaba, told the gathering that government officials and employees from the nearby mine are the ones occupying the newly constructed government low cost houses in Mashishing. Supported by Mr George Viljoen, the pair produced documented proof of their allegations

to the members of the legislature. The received documents which will assist the state to conduct further investigation. "It is disturbing to note that government and mining officials have since become the indigent for they occupy anything meant for the needy," said the obviously aggrieved Ledwaba. Chairperson of the day Hon.

David Dube confirmed that it is the Provincial Legislature's prerogative to ensure that all Department's lived up to their mandates in delivering adequate services to communities. "The same way we demand that all services should be accounted for, the legislature will ensure that the municipality together with the Department of Human Settlements

correct the illegal allocations in order to benefit the rightful beneficiaries." Dube challenged the community to report any illegal selling of the RDPs to law enforcement agencies in the country.

The Department continues to facilitate provision of secure, stable rental tenure for the middle-income earners with the implementation of a Community Residential Units programme to be implemented in the area.

The week long (08 – 12 April 2019) visit to the municipality presents an opportunity for the parliamentarians to conduct their oversight role to the Executive or government departments and interacts with the community on service delivery issues.

CELEBRATING WORKERS' DAY

The 1st of May is affectionately known as the International Workers' Day and Workers' Day in South Africa. The day celebrates labourers and the working class as the soul and flesh of any productive economy. The day draws its significance from the struggle waged by workers demanding shorter workday in October 1884, when the Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions in the United States, resolved that a working day should constitute of only eight hours. Its relevance in South Africa can be drawn from the role of trade unions in championing workers' rights since 1880 hitherto.

Workers have achieved a lot over their period of existence in South Africa; their voice is heard and respected by everyone, including government. However, the workers in the farms have been confronted with challenges that amongst others made it difficult for them to own land or a house in

a farm. Numerous legislations and policy were promulgated to protect labour tenants and gave them rights of occupation. As an addition to these enabling government legislations, the Department of Human Settlements National Housing Code makes provision for farm resident subsidies.

The policy on farm worker assistance intends to provide a flexible mechanism, which will promote access to adequate housing, including basic services and secure tenure to farm workers and residents in a variety of farming situations across the country. In addition, the programme aims to provide housing solutions on a project basis for registered labour tenants. Moreover, the programme promotes the development of sustainable human settlements.

To this effect, the Department has been able to deliver 432 units in order to provide decent houses to farm workers

in the province. Notwithstanding these strides, more energy must be injected to increase the number of assistance of farmer workers. This calls for continued engagement with farm owners to clarify their role in terms of policy directives as to how they can contribute in making sure that every person in the farms is not denied the right access the basic housing as directed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and Housing Act.

These accomplishment and enabling policies are some of the indicators that demonstrate the sincerity of government in improving the lives of all workers in all respects. As mentioned earlier, farm workers are encountered with many challenges, therefore more focus and assistance by government and trade unions must be paid to the improvement of the lives of farm workers and ensure complete policy implementation in these farms.

HOUSING TECHNOCRATS EMPOWERED THROUGH CAPACITY PROGRAMME

In a bid to continue building adequate and sustainable human settlements in the province, the National Department of Human Settlements through its Technical Training and Skills Development programme partnered with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBC) to capacitate municipal and provincial housing practitioners through a week-long Home Skills Inspectorate Programme in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The programme is intended to provide a platform to all engineers; project works managers, project monitors, programme managers, and municipal Inspectors to share their daily experiences and challenges in a bid to align the training to address such identified setbacks. Speaking during the training proceedings Ms Nomonde Rozane, a coordinator from the National Department emphasised that well equipped housing inspectors and project managers will help avoid costly mistakes.

Rozane stated that the skills programme is essential to all housing practitioners in all spheres of government working towards the development of integrated sustainable human settlements as it encompasses the need for improvement, adequate planning, implementation and management of adequate delivery of human settlements.

“The programme involves insight into Geotech, foundations, superstructure, roof, applicable legislature, regulations and statutory requirements in order to deliver quality houses.” One of the Department’s Cuban Technical Advisors, Mr Christian Perez appreciated the training and said this will help a great deal in skills transfer

and making sure that people are equipped with the right knowledge to deliver according to government’s expectations. “I am pleased with the programme and the training thereof because adequate housing protects people from a myriad of challenges ranging from wall cracks, floods, to

associated stagnant water supply. One other aspect I’m grateful of is that we will be able to escalate the information down to the contractors working on site as well as share best practices with our colleagues to deliver to the best of our abilities to the benefit of those in need of houses,” added Perez.



COORDINATING: Ms Nomonde Rozane addressing experts in the built industry during a Home Skills Inspectorate Programme in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

WOMEN DETERMINED TO EXCEL IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



LEADERSHIP: Human Settlements' National Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Ms Nocawe Mafu.

Radical economic transformation will remain a distant dream if society doesn't begin to take a conscious stand on the inclusion of women in strategic industries like the built sector. Human Settlements' National Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Ms Nocawe Mafu, highlighted this recently at a week-long celebration of the success of 15 women contractors who have their capacity been elevated from CIDB Grade One to CIDB Grade Four in the build sector.

The South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) celebrations took place in various municipalities across the Province where scores of local businesswomen gathered to share best practices.

The celebration has formed part of the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) week (25 -29 March 2019) celebration. SAWIC partnered with the Department of Human Settlements, whereby the organization handed over three fully furnished houses to identified households in the province. Mafu commended the Department for championing the idea of putting aside 30% of its budget to the empowerment

of women in the sector. "We are grateful as women to have been given such an incredible opportunity and recognition to ply our trade in a male dominated field". "Today we are happy to realize that it was not all in vain as we celebrate the growth of some of our contractors who got their working grades elevated to can absorb even more work," said Mafu. She further pleaded with other stakeholders to make the same call for the empowerment of women in their work cycles. One of the jubilant contractors, Ms Nomathamsanqa Juku explained that despite the many hurdles experienced working as a woman with limited resources, the only key thing is to stay on course and let the work do the talk.

"Breaking into the system is a bit challenging and once that has happened then it means as an emerging contractor one needs to know that you will be competing with the best and well established contractors that are mostly male. Then it means one should up their skills to stay relevant in the game," said Juku who further admitted that the challenges are daunting at the

beginning until such time they have learnt how to complete their work on time. Human Settlements Deputy Minister Zou Kota-Fredericks who handed over two houses to beneficiaries from Shiyalongubo Village and Loueville kicked off the celebration earlier in the week. Sequel to that, a 56 year-old woman from Pienaar had her fully furnished house handed over to her by the Department and SAWIC.

The organisation's Chairperson, Ms Nomhle Tshaba-Nyumba, affirmed their position as an organisation that they strive to lobby private and public sectors to rally their support behind women in the construction value chain. Tshaba-Nyumba said that they have managed to come up with winning proposals that challenged government to include women in their developmental programmes. "Today we have women contractors who are thriving in their work and providing competitive service delivery for the betterment of our communities and country," she concluded. SAWIC affiliated women contractors built the houses as part of the Department's women empowerment programme.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM DAY: TAKING PRIDE IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year post 1994 democratic breakthrough, South Africa celebrates Freedom Day on the 27th April. This day marks the extinction of the minority rule in South Africa. It is the day, which a new dispensation was ushered in to afford all races the right to participate in the election of a government that is representative of all its citizens. It is the right that took over three centuries to realize and it signifies political freedom and realisation of the Freedom Charter aspiration that "People Shall Govern".

The previously mentioned facts about this give significance in the nature and background of the celebration of the Freedom Day. Despite these unassailable facts, many questions have been raised as to whether this celebration is warranted for, given many challenges confronting and gnawing the South African people today. South Africa has been battling with poverty, unemployment, gender based violence, femicide, structural economic exclusion of specific groups in society, etc. The South African struggle has always been about the total emancipation of the oppressed. The concept of 'total

emancipation' should be understood to mean complete freedom (political, economic and social). With the appreciation that South Africa is not living in an island, but coexists with others in a capitalist unipolar world, the division of the struggle into phases became sound. The first phase of the struggle is marked by political accomplishments; these achievements can be enhanced given the ever-changing political conditions.

Looking at the background of Freedom Day, one finds the appreciation that the celebration is mostly on political achievements. At the core of this is the establishment of a democratic state and entrenchment of democracy as fundamental value in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. The strengthening and establishments of democratic institutions are of significance importance as they continue to support our democracy and uphold accountability and the rule of law in the republic. Despite the challenges mentioned earlier, this freedom has brought about change in the lives of many South Africans. Over 5 million houses have been built since 1994, thus restoring dignity. South Africa

has recorded the following achievements: increase in black middle class, increase in tax base and revenue, increase of black graduates, increase in social security services beneficiaries, increase in access to finance, increase in life expectancy etc. Surely, these successes cannot be ignored and due pride should be taken in them.

In the period 2014 – 2019 of the Medium Term Strategic Framework, the province delivered a total number of 66 792 housing opportunities. The Department has been able to construct 37 933 houses; serviced 28 819 sites; constructed 321 Community Residential Units (CRUs) and bestowed full property ownership to ordinary citizens by registering 29 053 title deeds. We should continue to celebrate every achievement we register as the country to keep a high-spirited mood in addressing all challenges. These challenges should not cloud the scores gained, but seen as an enemy to be defeated in the struggle for total emancipation of the people of South Africa. We all ought to strive for the fast-tracking of the accomplishment of the second phase of our struggle, to bring about economic freedom and social liberation.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE HANDED TO GOGO MUTILENI

-An approach set to revolutionise the construction sector -

In this age of the fourth industrial revolution, technology has to be embraced and used as a tool to improve people's lives for the better. This is a view expressed by the MEC for Human Settlements, Norah Mahlangu during the handing over of a fully furnished Innovative Build Technology (IBT) house to Lisbeth Mutileni (77) at the weekend (03 May 2019). Gogo Lisbeth from Dikgwale B, Dr JS Moroka in Mpumalanga, has been living in a corrugated iron structure for most of her life. This type of the house is not built with normal brick and mortar (traditional form of building), but steel and concrete which makes it stronger and durable. "This type of building, using technology is more energy efficient as it uses less electricity.

The interior is cooler in hot weather and warmer in cold weather, thus the occupant does not need to own an air conditioner", explained MEC Mahlangu. She further asserted that it takes less time to complete this type of house. It also has a 50 year estimated life span with less maintenance, which makes it cost effective with value for money. The ailing Gogo Mutileni who lives with her two school-going granddaughters could



INNOVATION: MEC Norah Mahlangu handing over keys of a newly completed house to Gogo Mutileni.

not hold her tears as she appreciated and thanked MEC Mahlangu for changing her life. "This is a dream come true, I am grateful for this house. This house will surely improve my health and impact positively on my grandchildren's education", she said. Gogo Mutileni was identified through the involvement of the Municipality and local leadership structures. The National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) as part of IBT

pilot project and to raise the level of construction industrialization, especially housing delivery in South Africa, built the house. The objective of this project is to diminish the myth that IBT houses are sub-standard. It further raises awareness and educates builders and homeowners about this initiative. The NHBRC will also be embarking on a wide scale training of contractors and developers on IBT house construction throughout the country.

ADDRESSING THE GAP MARKET THROUGH FLISP

The human settlements sector remains one of the most challenging areas in the social and economic environment of the country. This mirrors worldwide trends as population explosions continue to create an increasing demand within the property market for well-located land and housing. Following the 2009 proclamation (Change from Housing to the Department of Human Settlements) the focus shifted from housing being just a roof over people's heads, to providing sustainable and integrated human settlements where people can work, pray, play and have access to amenities required for their day-to-day living. While property prices have escalated over recent years, the prospect of acquiring one's own property has become nothing but a far-fetched dream for many, especially those earning a lower income, yet not earning much to access huge bonds. However, all thanks to Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) that dream can become a reality. FLISP is a government initiative that aims at assisting lower income earners in acquiring property.

The Department of Human Settlements with a primary role of facilitating sustainable housing development process, introduced this initiative. The Department works alongside the Housing Development Agency (HDA) which is an agency that was established to assist in promoting sustainable communities by making well-located land and buildings



ASSISTANCE: Departmental officials responsible for FLISP assist a member of the public with an enquiry.

available for the development of housing and human settlements. The programme is intended to assist the gap market by providing a subsidy that can be used to pay a deposit on a house or decrease the size of a home loan. The gap market refers to the unmet consumer group that has a family income that falls between R3 501 - R22 000 a month. Like many programmes, FLISP too has additional requirements that make one eligible for a loan.

One of the key requirements is to have a clear credit record as pre-approval from financial institutions as the first step. Pre-existing debt has affected some negatively in

terms of meeting the requirements; therefore efforts in reducing debt prior to applying for the loan need to be made by the applicants beforehand. On the other hand, FLISP has helped many in restoring the dignities of their families who previously haven't owned homes. FLISP seeks to empower and uplift every South African citizen by making it possible for everyone to own a home. Sequel to the advent of the broadened mandate, the department has an added responsibility of ensuring that middle-income earners too are afforded opportunities to own houses of their own. Had it not been through the existence of FLISP, such a dream was to be a pipe dream for others.

PROVINCE CELEBRATES AFRICA MONTH

The celebration of Africa Month is an affirmation of our love for our continent and our commitment to ensure that Africa succeeds in all its endeavours. It is important for South Africa to live in peace with our fellow Africans in conditions of equality, mutual respect and equal advantage. A key milestone for South Africa this year is the celebration of the country's 25 years of democracy, an achievement for which we owe gratitude for many African countries.

We owe our freedom to the many African figures who fought against apartheid and oppression in South Africa. Thus, we cannot begin to define ourselves outside the African continent or downplay the tremendous role played by African state in landing a hand for the ultimate realization of our democratic order. The system of colonialism and apartheid was evil and atrocious, many activists died in the hands of our oppressors. The year 1994 marked the new path in South Africa

as many voters anxiously went to cast their vote for South Africa's democratic dispensation. Today our country can pride itself with its globally admired Constitution and Bill of rights, which give the guarantee to dignity and respect for human rights. Our key milestone this year is the celebration of the country's 25 years of democracy with the strong enshrined rule of law and stable state.

South Africa's freedom has undeniably played a major role in Africa as a continent at large. Its stance towards Africa since 1994 has evolved dramatically and the country's national interest on the continent is clearly expressed through its efforts to improve economic development, political governance, ensuring peace and stability. South Africa's prominent role in Africa is that of being a regional leader in the reform of continental institutions, another focus is on the international politics of Africa's democratic elections, which are supported by the Electoral Institute for

Sustainable Development in Africa (EISA), established in 1996. Notwithstanding the bona fide pivotal role played to and by South Africa, these successes have their own blemishes. The xenophobic outburst in the country remain one of the biggest challenges that have a detrimental effect in the manner in which we relate with other African states. Xenophobia stems from "the deep dislike of non-nationals by nationals of a recipient state" as defined by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

It is a vehicle through which racism and profiling on the bases of nationality are manifested. Numerous attacks have been recorded over the years and there has been speculation that issues concerning poor service delivery and competition for resources trigger the violent attacks. South Africa will have to rise above and bury all forms of hatred directed to African people and work tirelessly to help resolve gnawing ills in other African countries.

GOVERNMENT EQUIPS YOUTH IN CONSTRUCTION

Delivering her 2019/2020 Budget Vote Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements: MEC Norah Mahlangu used the occasion to outline the fiscal vision of the Department for the next five years. She reaffirmed that the Department will continue to ensure access to adequate housing for the benefit of the people in the province. The Department will uphold its mandate on developing integrated and sustainable settlements with more emphasis in securing land tenure, deliver affordable housing, offer basic service and social and economic amenities. During the course of the sixth administration, the Department will prioritise the provision of

basic infrastructure in Priority Housing Development Areas (PHDAs) such as eMalahleni, Steve Tshwete, Govan Mbeki, City of Mbombela, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu local municipalities. The areas will welcome new human settlements, which will mainly focus on upgrading of informal settlements. Achieving an inspired balance between spatial equity, economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability the Department will continue with the implementation of 14 existing mega projects and finalise township establishment process in new 47 Breaking News Ground projects.

“Thirty in-situ informal settlements are prioritised for upgrading. The Integrated Residential Development Programme will deliver fully-subsidised, rental, affordable housing opportunities in the province,” added MEC Norah Mahlangu. Aiming at expanding personal freedoms by providing the communities of Mpumalanga with a bigger choice of where to live, the Department will create **70 481** housing opportunities within the next MTSF (2019 to 2024). The opening will consist of **39 585** sites, **28 196** units, **1 700** rental units and **1000** Financed Linked Individual Subsidies (FLISP) and **40 000** title deeds will be issued.



DEVELOPMENT: Some of the Youth Brigade Programme graduates at a recent ceremony.



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