



human settlements  
 MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# TaseKHAYYA

Department of Human Settlements

Official External Newsletter

First Quarter Edition 2017/18



PAGE **4**

BUDGET POISED TO ACCELERATE  
 INTEGRATED GROWTH

PAGE **7**

MKMVA MILITARY VETERANS  
 RECEIVE DECENT HOUSES

PAGE **5**

CHANGES TO THE HOUSING  
 CODE ON THE CARDS

## Editorial Comment



Mr Freddy Ngobe  
Head of Communications

The year 2017 marks exactly 23 years since the country attained freedom and ushered in democracy. This feat was achieved after political parties; activist and civic society dedicated their lives in confronting the evils of the past system in the

country – Apartheid. Since 1994 a lot has been recorded in many fronts. These include amongst others, progressive government policies, enhanced service delivery in a bid to improve people's lives, stable political environment and the county's recognition and playing a meaningful in the global space.

Having reflected on that, there were few elements of 'over-board' freedom of expression and incidents of racism. These incidents called for tougher actions against

the perpetrators and largely to undertake a public discourse. Some even suggested promulgation of legislations that will deal with elements of racism. The freedom month (April) as it is often called saw the country commemorating Freedom Day at various locations to mark the 23 years since the dawn of democracy. President Jacob Zuma presided over the national event in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

This quarter had more on reflection and commemoration of citizen's rights as enshrined in the Constitution. For implementation and full realisation, these rights are then translated into policy and government services – which in turn government in the main and society in general must uphold and deliver on. Such rights which people have to enjoy could have not been so paramount than in this quarter. The first month saw the country commemorating the hard earned Freedom (April), Worker's Rights on observing Worker's Day in May and closed off by commemorating Youth Day to homage the struggles waged by the youth in 1976 in the fight against unjust education system.

The Province held a series of activities by delivering services, re-emphasising their importance and exhibition of products to

commemorate these important days of our calendar. On a progressive delivery was the fruition of a project in joint partnership by the Departments of Military Veterans and Human Settlements when delivering 21 of the 78 houses to military veterans at the newly established Siyanqoba Integrated Human Settlements Project, e Malahleni Local Municipality. The programme is aimed at providing decent shelter to all veterans that were previously involved in the struggle towards the liberation of the country.

Much as the Province has duly observed activities to commemorate a number of important calendar days during this quarter, one key activity took place when MEC Speed Mashilo delivered his maiden Policy and Budget Vote 2017/18 at the Legislature. Central to his presentation was, amongst other, an emphasis on the development of land, increased speed at issuing title deeds and economic development through various interventions especially for the rural community.

These have been – in a nutshell - the highlight of the first quarter.

*Enjoy your read.*

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## DELIVERED BUDGET POISED TO ACCELERATE INTEGRATED GROWTH

During the course of the year, the Department of Human Settlements has been hard at work in its quest to satisfy what the Constitution enjoins it to do – which is the provision of shelter and the facilitation of integrated sustainable human settlements as advocated by the broadened mandate.

Tabling his maiden Budget Vote of R1,6bn for the 2017/18 fiscal period at the Provincial Legislature on May 23, 2017, MEC Speed Mashilo accentuated in his speech that the Department had all its focal point at delivering descent houses, serviced sites, socio-economic facilities, title deeds, social and rental units as well as water and sanitation.

This was to a certain extent, achievable to communities through the length and breadth of the province possibly with the commitment and collaboration with the three District Municipalities in the province. "As the year stretched – people

of different race, creed, and socio-economic status, political and religious convictions, amongst others benefited from our services with an eventual sight of creating a one united community," highlighted Mashilo.

He expounded on the previous deliverables the Department has achieved indicating 16 089 housing opportunities have been created to various households in the province. These, amongst others, comprised of 9 941 serviced sites, 3 841 housing units constructed whilst others are still at various milestones, and 5 446 jobs created.

"The demand by our communities for adequate and accessible settlements continues especially the middle-income earners. Despite tangible strides having been recorded in the development of integrated human settlements, the country still faces a growing challenge in providing all citizens with access to suitable

housing," emphasised Mashilo who however, added that the immediate task is to provide subsidised housing to the needy such as child headed families, elderly, people with disability and orphans as advocated by the policy.

The Department has this year committed to prioritise the implementation of existing and new Integrated Human Settlements Projects; Upscaling of Informal Settlements and Upgrading Programme in fast growing towns; Construction of Rental Housing Programme and Social Amenities; Acceleration of the issuing of title deeds to rightful beneficiaries; Provision of Engineering Services and Quality Assurance; Implementation of enhanced People's Housing Process (ePHP) Project Model as approved by the Executive Council in December 2016; Individual Subsidy Programme, amongst others, and Implementation of human settlements projects in line with the Executive Council's approved Social Enterprise Development Model.

## SUPERIOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BNG PROJECTS



**STRATEGY:** MEC Speedy Mashilo and HOD: Mr Kebone Masange discussing before tabling of the Policy and Budget Vote 2017/18

In a bid to maximise the upgrading of informal settlements in the province the Department of Human Settlements has continued to roll out mega projects

across all municipal jurisdictions to dismiss the mushrooming of informal settlements and created conducive environments as enjoined by the broadened mandate.

The delivery of the Breaking New Ground (BNG) projects in the province has seen considerable improvements and successes over the years since the inception of the new policy trajectory - sustainable integrated human settlements. With the resolution to address among other challenges of human settlements such as the urban decay, uncontrollable inflow of people coming to towns for better livelihoods, the Department has succeeded in accelerating strides to curb this gap in the province.

During the 2016/17 financial year, the Department created 16 089 housing opportunities to various households in the province. These, amongst others, comprised of 9 941 serviced sites, 3 841 housing units constructed whilst others are still at various milestones, and 5 446 jobs created. Substantial endeavours were made by further developing existing and initiating new integrated human settlements through upgrading of site, delivering of units to upgrade informal settlements, support to municipalities

through the provision of bulk water and sanitation infrastructure and rural development.

During his maiden Budget Vote for the 2017/18 fiscal period, MEC Speed Mashilo pronounced that the strengthening of the planning unit has led to the initiation of several plans to deliver integrated sustainable human settlements projects throughout the province. This includes the establishment of the Planning Commission that the Hon. Premier announced in his State of the Province Address (SOPA).

“With such a commission in place, the Integrated Development Plans of Municipalities and the Spatial Land Use Management strategies will assist the whole Province of Mpumalanga to move towards an integrated and sustainable Human Settlements. Notwithstanding the number of challenges within the sector, the Department strived at ensuring that the needy communities are afforded their Constitutional right, which is access to housing,” emphasized Mashilo. The Department is currently implementing five main Integrated Human Settlements Projects in Ehlanzeni, four main Integrated Human Settlements Projects in Nkangala and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

## HOUSING BENEFICIARIES PROFIT ON FREEDOM DAY

**A** 58-year old Mr. Giya Matjeke was excited to be amongst the magnitude of happy beneficiaries who received their newly built houses with furnisher during the celebration of this year’s Freedom Day in Mammethlake, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. Matjeke’s unemployed wife, Lettie, could not help it but excitedly thank the Department of Human Settlements for moving them into their dream house.

Mr. Matjeke who lives off temporary jobs and supply of water and wood in his community said, “There is no greater joy than coming home to a warm and beautiful house with no fair of unconditional living circumstances” He further expressed his gratitude, explaining that the main reason why he could not live with his 2 daughters was because of the unconditional living situations. “I will now provide a safe and healthy environment to raise my children” said Mr. Matjeke.

“I am grateful for the house and all the furnisher I have received today. It gives me joy to know that from today onwards I will not be cooking outdoors but using my new stove in the beautiful house,” explained Ms. Matjeke, who further appreciated Government for the sterling intervention in their lives and wished they could continue reaching out to others who are in need.

This year’s Freedom Day was celebrated under the theme ‘Together deepening democracy and building safer and crime-free communities’ in honour of the late struggle icon, Oliver Tambo. The 2017 National Freedom Day marks 23 years of freedom in South Africa from apartheid colonial oppression and two decades of constitutional democracy, the nation celebrates the centenary of Oliver Reginald Tambo, the epitome of our struggle for liberation. It is an opportunity not only to celebrate 20 years of

the Constitution, freedom and democracy, but to reflect on how South Africa’s and freedom was achieved, the progress made in the past 23 years and how South Africans should work together to achieve economic freedom. Sharing the same sentiment with the Matjeke family, Mr Matjila said “I am grateful for the government that heard me cry and came to me. I couldn’t have asked for better gift.” He appreciated. These two families were among many recipients who benefited prodigiously from this event.

The delivery is part of the R10 million project that consists the 80 houses realized through the Rural and Farm Worker Assistant Programme, delivered by the Department and the Dr JS Moroka Municipality. Accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka Municipality Cllr GJ Skhosana, MEC Speed Mashilo handed

over the houses to the beneficiaries and requested them not to sell the houses but to rather pass them onto their next generations. “ANC government continues in delivering quality services to communities” said MEC Mashilo. He pleaded with the municipality and the department to ensure the connection of electricity to the newly built houses. It astonishes that through our freedom we are able to change lives and give back to South Africans.

Freedom Day recognizes and celebrates the strides that have been made since 1994, and acknowledges that South Africa is a far better society than it was under apartheid. It is also a period of reflection on what else needs to be done collectively towards the goal of building a prosperous society and improving the quality of life for all.



**SERVICE DELIVERY:** Mr Giya Matjeke interviewed by Mr Freddy Ngobe outside his new home.

## MASSIVE TITLE DEEDS ROLL-OUT CAMPAIGN PLANNED

The issuing of title deeds to beneficiaries is one of the strategic functions of the Department of Human Settlements in ensuring peoples' dignity and security of tenure is realised. In dealing with title deeds backlog, an improved approach to expedite the issuing of title deeds has been initiated. The Department has set itself a target of 26 000 title deeds to be issued this financial year. This excludes those that have not being physically distributed by municipalities, but handed over to them by the Department. Title deeds ensure the security of tenure and bringing about the sense of ownership and dignity to holders of title deeds.

The Department has set its target at 26 000 for registration and issuing of title deeds for the current 2017/18 financial year as announced by the MEC for Human Settlements, Honourable Speed Mashilo during the Budget Vote Speech for the current financial year. This announcement comes at the time the Department is dealing with the backlog in handing over these title deeds to beneficiaries. As a result, the new model of

handing title deeds had to be introduced to counter the backlog. A number of title deeds remained in municipal and department's offices while waiting for the next event.

Mr Thembinkosi Selowe from Rental and Property Management gave details and explanation on the new model. "Over the years, the Department has been battling with the handover backlog of disseminating title deeds to beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner. We therefore, needed to find new ways to expedite both the registration and handing over of title deeds to rightful beneficiaries", he explained.

He further expounded that as opposed to an old tradition that limited the handover of title deeds during events only, a door-to-door campaign is to be used to achieve the intended objective. "The old method of handing over title deeds during events begot the backlog we are dealing with. Now, the door-to-door campaign will be used to keep up with our strategic task of ensuring security of tenure and bring sense of ownership to citizens of Mpumalanga.

The Department's and respective municipal officials will go around the province issuing these title deeds directly to beneficiaries", said Mr Selowe.

The new roll-out campaign will see more beneficiaries getting hold of their title deeds in a speedy manner and eliminate drastically the number of title deeds in Department's and Municipalities' offices. Furthermore, the door-to-door will provide an opportunity for direct interaction with beneficiaries pertaining the title deeds. Technical problems with the document will be quickly registered and prompt rectification required will be done in an efficient way. It will also afford an opportunity to speak about the importance and safeguarding of the title deed.

Beneficiaries are required to have the ID document or smart card handy when collecting or receiving their title deeds. Beneficiaries will be notified in advance about the visit so as to allow them to make themselves available during the door-to-door exercise. A title deed is given direct to the holder of title deed.

## A BANK FOR TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED



**LEADERSHIP:** Minister Lindiwe Sisulu addressing stakeholders in one of the Department's sessions

Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu announced the launch of the bank which is a result of a consolidation of three development finance institutions, National Housing Finance Corporation, the Housing Loan Fund and the National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency. She made the pronouncement during her tabling of the 2017/18 Policy and Budget speech in Cape Town. The Human Settlements Development Bank will provide housing finance to people earning above the required salary bracket to qualify for government subsidized housing but not enough to secure mortgage bonds from retail banks.

The bank will only start to function once the Human Settlements Development Bank Bill, which is currently in its fifth draft, is passed by Parliament. The Department hopes that this would be done by the end of September this year. Sisulu said, "The strategic focus of the bank will be to facilitate the increased provision of finance across the human settlements value chain."

Once functional, it would also provide finance to emerging black entrants into the property sector, and would scale up delivery of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy (FLISP). This subsidy is aimed at first time home owners earning below R15,000 per month. Human Settlements Director-General, Mbulelo Tshangana, said they were also considering increasing this threshold to R20,000.

Sisulu said one of the bank's priorities would be funding her department's "catalytic projects". The department has prioritised 46 of these projects which would build houses as a partnership between government and the private sector. She also announced that non-citizens would no longer be able to buy low cost homes built by the government for the poor. Owners of low cost government-funded homes have a legal right to sell them after eight years.

However Sisulu said that many of those who could afford to buy them were foreign nationals, government's intention in providing free houses was to give the poor an asset and an entry into the economy. "Selling these houses defeats the ends for which we put this together, it would be illegal to sell homes to non-citizens, they would still be able to access other government housing options such as government rental units" concluded Sisulu.

## MAJOR CHANGES TO THE HOUSING CODE ON THE CARDS

**A**n intensive two day discussion was held recently to review the delivery instruments of the Department of Human Settlements. The National Department dispatched a team of policy specialists to provinces where they met with housing institutions and municipal representative at Graceland Hotel and Resort (Secunda) as part of a nationwide consultation drive to enable the conclusion of the White Paper on Human Settlements.

It emerged during the presentations made on different delivery instruments such as Incremental Housing, Integrated Developmental Programme, Improved Informal Settlements Upgrading, Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Program and Farm worker Subsidy, almost others that the Minister of Human Settlements has new strategies up her sleeves for future development.

The relevance of Community Residential Units (CRU) was scrutinized whereby as a result of studies conducted showed that government is not collecting sufficient revenue to enable it to cover its overheads. Cash flow problems have made it difficult to optimally run the CRU programme. Poor management has been sighted as a major shortcoming and a serious contributing factor towards its inept performance, or decline to a certain extent. Failure to accommodate tenants according to the correct income brackets has prompted a suggestion to halt construction of such structures and consider placing them under the management of housing institutions in some instances.

The Finance Linked Subsidy Program (FLISP) has had its fair share of teething problems. "This is the only programme that facilitates private sector investment wherein government contributes a minimum amount and banks provide the bulk of funds," said Mr. Louis van der Walt, Head of Policy Development at the National Human Settlements Department. He further stated that it has a lot of potential;



**DELIBERATIONS:** Mr. Louis van der Walt presenting the draft White Paper at the workshop in Secunda

however, there are two problems. The first is that there are no products that are in the price range of R450 000 and below. As Van der Walt cited, the second one is that the country's credit rating means bad news to those who are trying to secure home loans. He mentioned that this is because most workers who fall within the gap market income group are already over indebted and cannot afford to take any more loans.

"The successful rolling out of construction of FLISP houses is dependent on the number of approved applicants. "Government is looking at capacitating ordinary able – bodied individuals with construction skills to enable them to construct their own homes after they have been allocated serviced

stands. Establishment of co-operatives to manufacture building materials like window frames, doors and bricks are crucial to provide much needed employment to do away with poverty," elaborated Van der Walt while adding that in the near future, the focus would be squarely on the aged, disabled and child headed households who would be prioritized in terms of full government subsidy.

Other policies discussed were around rural farmworkers, backyard dwellers and policies concerning people falling within various income brackets. All inputs gathered from all provincial departments would be consolidated and submitted to the Minister for consideration before they could be approved and implemented.

## KWAMHLANGA LEARNERS SCHOOLED IN THE BUILD INDUSTRY

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth", Diogenes. The role of youth in this country can not be emphasized enough especially where sustained development is concerned. The struggles of the youth in this country include education, unemployment and poverty. Initiatives such as Take a Girl Child to Work seek to empower the youth. It is in essence an annual corporate social investment event held in the country since 2003.

The Department made its contribution by organizing learners from Somkhahlekwa Senior High School. The concept of the event was enhanced to include male learners which saw a group of 40 Grade 11 learners being ferried by the Department from their school. CN Mahlangu TVET College opened its facilities

and availed lecturers to orientate learners on construction and project management skills.

Learners were taken on a guided tour around the college whereby they were exposed to a basket of technical courses such as Fitting and Turning, Boilermaking, Carpentry, Plumbing and Bricklaying which could empower them with relevant skills. Mastering the different faculties would enable learner to further their studies and become specialists, engineers and project managers.

A feed back session was held after the tour whereby students were given an opportunity to relate their preferred fields of study and reasons thereof. "Project Management is a crucial element in delivering housing projects in time. It brings a unique focus shaped by

goals, resources and schedule of each project. It takes a qualified and self-driven individual to undertake the delivery of quality houses from start to finish", said Project Manager, Ms Lindiwe Masilela.

Students were also given a platform to engage with various presenters. Linda Mahlangu, one of the learners said, "I intend to study Plumbing as a course because the skills I can acquire in the field would enable me to secure employment at a construction company. I can also run a business in the community and even tender for government jobs". The initiative achieved its objectives which were to create a programme for the day to orientate learners by exposing them to technical courses and to provide a platform for dialogue around requirements for different career streams.

## YOUNG PEOPLE GROOMED FOR CONSTRUCTION

After the 41 years of celebrating youth month (June) in South Africa, a young vibrant woman based in Schoemasdal at the Nkomazi Local Municipality, made a contribution to the construction sector. As we celebrate the month of June most associated as the youth month in the South African calendar we take a look at Qinyane Construction - a small family owned Business Corporation owned by a young vibrant woman by the name of Nozipho Nkosi, born and bred in Schoemansdal.

Qinyane Construction is a company aimed at uplifting the youth of South African more particular the youth of Mpumalanga. Nozipho Nkosi said that she is inspired by her sister Gugu and amongst all the women of South Africa who are taking the initiative to be in the construction sector. Established in 2011 and started doing work with the department of human settlement as a sub-contractor in 2013, now doing contract project with the department as part of the department of settlement youth breakage project to uplift the youth of South Africa,

Qinyane construction is current doing a project with the department at Accornhork which started in January this year and due to finished in June this year, a 50 units building, Qinyane policy in term of recruitment is based on 60% of the youth to be employed on every project they do and the remaining 40% be both men and women.

Miss Nozipho Nkosi further elaborated that she hope to do major project with department to ensure that youth participate in the development of the RDP houses in this country. Even though there are many challenges in the construction sector Nozipho is optimistic to overcome them.

The Department has partnered with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), national youth commission (NYC), the national home builders' registration council (NHBRC) and the youth in human settlements (YiHS). In ensuring that the youth are taking care the department of human settlement has provided advance hard basic skills training, these skills include bricklaying, plumbing, plastering, electrical wiring, offing, painting, tilling, worksite health and safety and construction management.

By the means of the department of human settlement to engage in special programme on the key policies, plans and campaigns of those programme are objectives of to present a holistic and integrated approach to human settlement delivery through youth development and participation in, to articulate a multi-stakeholder human settlement and youth development consensus on housing delivery youth participation and to establish a dedicated platform in the delivery of human settlement for programmatic participation of youth

The programme for the youth in the human settlement has made significant strides in the delivery houses to the vulnerable and marginalised population of South Africa .the human settlement vision articulated in the comprehensive plan of the department of human settlement presents a reaffirmation of government commitment to deliver opportunities for the poor and vulnerable groups of.

One of the objectives plan is the accelerate delivery of housing as a strategy for poverty alleviation and utilise the provision of housing as a major job creation.in context of the growing population, persistence of inequalities, poverty and unemployment. The department of human settlement have develop a strategies to focus on youth as they vulnerable yet dynamic sector of the population.

The department has a number of programmes that benefit the youth such as the expanded public works, national youth training programme, urban renewal project, housing scholarship and internship programme and the emerging contactor programme. The department has a significant role to play in ensuring the effective participation of youth in the human settlement delivery value chain. Those programmes seek to facilitate the participation of youth and are aligned to the comprehensive plan for the creation of sustainable human settlement.



## SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS PROVIDING FOR THE BROADER MARKET

The department has undertaken many programmes in an endeavour to settle communities in sustainable integrated human settlements. Social housing is one of them, where communities afforded the necessary dignity and a healthy environment and support economic development. Towards serving the needs of the low and medium income households the social housing programme is convenient. It facilitates the provision of secure stable rental tenure for low income persons. The department offer low income rental as a solution to the many of beneficiaries who are not able to access formal private rental market.

The department in partnership with municipalities as part of social housing has so far built community residential units throughout the province to accommodate beneficiaries who do not qualify for low cost houses nor a bond house and those who are working far from home. The Tsalanang Community Residential Units is finer example of the social housing projects the Department is involved with. The project is located at Lekwa Municipality at Embalenhle extension 8. The massive development comprises of 348 units which includes a community hall, gym, day care centre, laundry, maintenance yard and other services.

The multi-year project has a cost of more than R 160 million and is currently at 85% towards completion. In order to continue delivering quality social amenities planning has improved. In the Department's policy and budget speech the MEC confirmed that "Our country has over many years experienced skewed planning which were based along racial patterns. This meant that people were settled along racial lines, socio-economic profile, therefore perpetuating a situation where communities continued to endure unsustainable development and inhumane conditions" shared MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Speed Mashilo.

Thus far the Department is planning and designing community residential units in other areas of the Province. Consultants have been appointed for the development of Community Residential at Umjindi, Sonheuwel, Sabie, Middelburg and Malelane.



**AT WORK:** Construction on progress at Tsalanang Community Residential Units which will soon provide decent accommodation to people at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality.

## MILITARY VETERANS BENEFIT FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSES

Dignity and pride have been restored to 21 military veterans as they are now proud owners of government subsidized houses. The Department honoured these beneficiaries during the handing over of their newly built houses at Siyanqoba Integrated Human Settlement Project, eMalahleni Local Municipality. This feat follows a rigorous programme by the Department to address housing needs for military veterans and honouring them for the role they played towards the attainment of this country's freedom.

The hand-over which is part of the 78 housing units to be constructed for military veterans by the Department during the current financial year throughout the province is cofounded by the Department and the Department of Military Veterans. It is aimed at assisting and supporting them and dependents for improved livelihoods. One of the beneficiaries is 49 year old Mr Lastborn

Zimu who has been staying in a shack for a long time. "Life was very difficult staying in a one room with my kids. But I am grateful to our government that it has not forgotten about us as military veterans and our contribution to this country", he exclaimed.

The delivery of the houses is part of the bigger plan to develop the multi-million Siyanqoba BNG project which will benefit nearly 9000 households, delivering socio-economic facilities, various housing typologies and educational and health facilities, amongst others. Department aims to alleviate the pressure of the destitute circumstances in which these military veterans find themselves in. This strategic priority project demonstrates the pivotal role that infrastructure development plays in uplifting the socio-economic circumstances of all South Africans. Human Settlements MEC, Speed Mashilo congratulated the military veterans for their houses and

thanked them for the role they played in the liberation of the country. "I am exited today that we finally handed over this beautiful house to our military veterans, we are rolling this programme throughout the province where we have military veterans", said MEC Mashilo. This accomplishment by the Department is a token to show and provide decent shelter for all veterans that were previously involved in the struggle towards the liberation of the country.

This multi-year project comprise of approximately 8 950 sites has so far delivered 6 500 serviced sites, 1500 housing at various stages of completion and bulk infrastructure", said MEC Mashilo. The Siyanqoba BNG project is in line with the Department's broadened mandate which advocates the development of human settlements in a sustainable and integrated manner. The military veterans were urged to take care of their houses and not sell them.



**HAND OVER:** MEC Speed Mashilo addressing Taylor Ntsimbini (wearing a cap), Lastborn Zimu (extreme right) and his family while other MKMVA members look on.

**BELOW:** One of the quality houses delivered by the department for military veterans





**RELIEF:** MEC Speed Mashilo accompanied by Chief Whip in the Provincial Legislature and Mr Johanne Mkhathwa officially hand over the newly built house to Mr Elphus Matikwani and his wife gogo Ennie Khoza.

## CYCLONE DINEO RAVAGED HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES A FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

Following heavy storms that hit some parts of South Africa including Mpumalanga few months ago as a result of Cyclone Dineo, the family of an 81-year old Gogo Ennie Khoza in Naas Village, Nkomazi Local Municipality, was left with nothing but a collapsed structure of what was once their sweet home. Khoza's appalling conditions worsened after the heavy downpours left her homeless and that caught the attention of the local municipality who then sought help from the Department of Human Settlements to intervene with a proper house.

Nkomazi Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza during her visit to the family discovered that the normal government housing programme would not accommodate the family owing to their big number of siblings; hence she teamed up with other reliable sponsors to source for donations. Gogo Khoza and her husband, Mr Elphus Matikwani said that there was never a time in their life where they felt so much confronted by death at the time of the storm. "It was one moment of terror, shock and so much confusion when it happened. The whole roof in our house got blown away in a split second leaving me, my wife together with my grandchildren to the threats of death as the bricks started falling off the walls," explained Matikwane.

Mayor Khoza highlighted that as a municipality they spoke to the Department and agreed on finding a donor to assist the family. "Working with various stakeholders from private and the local business community was indeed helpful. It assisted us to get all the necessary resources to build the family a new proper house as well as putting furnisher into it," she said, further explaining that both the Department and Municipality were proud to note that

there was so much of a good spirit as well as the desire to work together which was depicted by all the parties involved. The family is solely dependent on social grants and gogo Khoza is a custodian to five of her grandchildren from whom two are still in school while the others are unemployed. She thanked the Department together with the municipality and the sponsors for their generous support to aid her family in times of need.

MEC Speed Mashilo officially handed the house to the family and wished them a happy stay during the Easter holidays and going forward, "I must say that as one of the people who visited you at that time, definitely there was a lot of damage and serious interventions had to be made. As a

carving government of the province led under the stewardship of Premier David Mabuza, we are resolute to ensuring that we bring sustainable integrated human settlements to all the people of the province." He thanked MT Silinda and Associates for their support and the donated furnisher.

Representative from the company, Mr Jacob Silinda, commended the good working relationship from all stakeholders during the building processes and said, "It is certainly a blessing when we come together with one purpose to help the needy. Let's continue with our efforts to change the lives of the less-fortunate in our communities for a better life for all." The Department has more projects to deliver human settlements development during this financial year.



**DIGNIFIED:** The newly built house that belongs to the Khoza family at Nkomazi Local Municipality.