



co-operative governance,
human settlements & traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Rhino & Samora Machel Buildings, No. 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Private Bag X11328, Mpumalanga, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Tel: +27 (13) 766 6087

Litiko Letekubusa
Ngekubambisana
Tekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu
Netendzabuko

Departement van
Samewerkende Regering
Menslike Nedersettings
en Tradisionele Sake

UmNyango weTjhebiswano
laboRhulumende
zokuHlaliswa kwabantu
neenDaba zenDabuko

Press Release

08 August 2025

INTERVENING ON A HEALTH HAZARD THROUGH ASBESTOS ROOFS REMOVAL

The Mpumalanga Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) is accelerating the eradication of asbestos roofs to improve the public health and restore dignity to residents. MEC Speed Mashilo handed over 115 asbestos refurbished roofed houses at various areas of Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality this week. Accompanied by the Gert Sibande District Executive Mayors, Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu, Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mbuso Magubane and Inkosi Misizwe Sandile Mnisi symbolically handed over two newly roofed houses with full sponsored furnisher at Mantjolo Village in Manzana.

MEC Mashilo enlightened that over 20 000 houses in the province are said to be roofed with asbestos and require serious attention. "Government banned asbestos roofing in 2008 due to the material's links to cancer and chronic lungs disease. The department is committed to eradicate all asbestos roofing to old houses as they pose a health hazard to occupants" reaffirmed Mashilo. He cited that a total of 213 houses have since been eradicated out of 329 houses in various localities including, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Dipaleseng which were planned for the 2024/25 financial year.

One of the beneficiaries, Gogo Martha Nkambule (74) said her family decided to move back in to a shack fearing for their health and safety. "It was very dangerous and uncomfortable to inhale the asbestos. I am so grateful that today we are moving back to our newly roofed house" mentioned Gogo Nkambule joyfully. She further thanked the local councillor and the traditional council for ensuring that their voices are being heard. Sharing the same sentiment, Siyabonga Duma (25) who is staying with his two brothers at the child headed household revealed that they had lost hope that one day their roofed will be replaced. "Every time when we were inside the house we had to wear masks to cover our noses and mouth. I want to thank the government for replacing our house roof" said Duma.

At the hand over, Inkosi Mnisi acknowledged government's interventions. "Removing the asbestos roofs was very crucial. It is our responsibility to ensure our communities live in safe and dignified environments. I am pleased that these families now have decent homes" appreciated Inkosi Mnisi. A total of R71 million has been set aside for the 2025/26 financial year for completion of 600 units which are part of Phase 1 at Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr JS Moroka and Dipaleseng Local Municipalities. This also include the commencement of Phase 2 at Victor Khanye, Thaba Chweu and Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities.

ISSUED BY CoGHSTA COMMUNICATION SERVICES
CONTACT PERSON: MR FREDDY NGOBE
CONTACTS: 013766 6014 / 082 859 4630_

