



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

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LEGISLATORS APPLAUD DELIVERY OF OVER 600 HOUSING UNITS

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements continues to make significant strides in addressing the housing backlog in the province. More than 600 government-subsidised housing beneficiaries in Botleng Township in Delmas, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, now have safe and dignified homes. Botleng Township was formalised in 2018 to accommodate residents who had been relocated from Mandela, Mawaag, and Nkanini informal settlements, as well as backyard dwellers seeking permanent housing solutions.

The Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs recently conducted an oversight visit and commended the Department for its progress in delivering the project effectively. Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr. Daniel Nkosi, praised the initiative stating, "This project is a testament to the Department's commitment to delivering sustainable human settlements and improving the lives of our people." However, the Committee also urged both the Department and the local municipality to work towards removing illegal dumping sites, which pose serious health hazards to surrounding residents.

Among the beneficiaries of this housing development is 85-year-old, Ms. Easter Masilela, whose journey to homeownership has been marked by years of hardship and uncertainty. Reflecting on her experience, she shared, "For over five years, I lived in a dilapidated shack with my three children. When it rained, we would place buckets around the house to catch the water seeping through the roof. The cold nights were unbearable, and I often worried about our safety. Today, I am overwhelmed with joy. I finally have a home where we can sleep peacefully, without fear of the elements or crime." Ms. Masilela expressed her deep gratitude to the government for giving her family a place they can call home.

Representing the Department was Chief Director for Programme Management, Mr Uno Okon who stressed that the success of the project can be attributed to cooperation and effective planning. The oversight visit formed part of the Pre-Taking the Legislature to the People (TLP) programme, a strategic initiative that enables legislators to assess service delivery first-hand. The main TLP event is scheduled to take place from 10 – 14 March 2025, where all government departments and agencies will be expected to account to the public and provide solutions to pressing service delivery challenges.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ fngobe@mpg.gov.za

