

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014

Programme Director

Executive Mayor: Cllr P.V Malatsi (Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme)

Executive Mayor: Cllr N.P Nhlabathi (Gert Sibande District Municipality)

Executive Mayors Present

Members of the Legislature

Members of the Executive Council

Councillors

Head of Department

Municipal Manager

Social Cluster Members

Business Representative

Private Institutions

Officials from the Department and Municipality

Members of the Media

Distinguished Community Members

INTRODUCTION

Allow me to quote late former President, Nelson Mandela:

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

Last week the world celebrated the International Nelson Mandela Day, marking what would have been the former president's 96th Birthday.

**ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014**

The celebration, first declared by the United Nations in 2009, is intended to honour Mandela's legacy, encouraging people to volunteer and perform community service.

This - by at least - dedicating 67 minutes of your time doing good work for the less fortunate. President Mandela strongly believed on justice and humanity.

To mark the day, the province under the stewardship of Premier DD Mabuza undertook a series of social and life improving activities at Emakhazeni Local Municipality last week.

This year's celebration is the first time it is commemorated since Mandela's death on December 5th, 2013.

We are gathered here today celebrating our renowned world icon, the late former President, Dr Nelson Mandela.

Today marks a great achievement in the history of the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality and its community.

Since 2009, the department embraced a new approach of delivering services in an integrated and sustainable manner.

The broadened mandate and alignment requires the department to create integrated and sustainable human settlements.

This approach in the main is also about transforming cities and towns into cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with easy access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities.

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014

Much as the Department continues to deliver individual houses in rural areas, it will now no longer just implement houses, but play a larger role to coordinate, facilitate and support the provision of all the elements and aspects that constitute a sustainable human settlement.

To measure performance, government has set out clear targets and priorities to be delivered.

The department's priorities are informed by **Outcome 8** that includes among others – improvement of access to basic services, improved property market, more efficient land utilisation, and accelerated delivery of housing opportunities.

The projects handed over today will surely improve and benefit the lives of this municipality in a sense that they talk to our vision of integrating society and fostering social cohesion.

In manifesto, the African National Congress (ANC) makes it clear that there will be a great focus on human settlements as another priority for government.

The focus on this important portfolio is to rid the country of informal settlements and squalor, especially like the one we are upgrading today – Msholozzi Park.

Given this marching order by the ruling party, what is then required of this department is to improve its planning and deliver on this requirement.

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014

Our gathering here today is about service delivery – which this government and the ruling party are all about.

Following an increase of people wanting houses and subsequent invasion of land, the municipality made land available with serviced stands.

During the 2013/14 financial year, the Department allocated 500 units to upgrade this informal settlement which has since been formalized and has become a habitable place for the residents.

This was a Greenfield project which communities took advantage off and invaded, hence the intervention by this caring government.

Approved in January 2014 at a total value of **R37 million** to deliver **500** low income units in the area, the project has so far delivered **67** units, others are at various stages and some yet to be approved.

As a Department we say with these houses, this is our contribution towards honouring the former statesman for his tireless contribution to the improvement of people's lives.

The expenditure to date is **R11 million** and the project is expected to be completed this October 2014.

The project had economic spin-offs for the locals through job creation and sub-contracting.

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014

Our delivery here today resonates well with the spirit of a caring government as most beneficiaries are people with disabilities, child headed households, orphans and the elderly.

As for the elderly – this project – couldn't have come at a better time, more so that we are celebrating an icon, Tata Nelson Mandela.

NEW PLANS

In the current financial year new projects have been planned to benefit this very same community.

Sequel to the Premier's State of the Province Address recently, the Department has set out clear plans to create new integrated human settlements and deliver low income houses, at identified municipalities through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme.

The delivery will see the construction of over 7000 units at various municipalities in the province.

CONCLUSION

On Friday, 25th July 2015 I invite the public and some guests to join me through the media and at the Provincial Legislature as I will be tabling the Department's Policy and Budget Vote for the 2014/14 Financial Year.

ADDRESS BY HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. S.V SIWELA
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HOUSES HAND OVER PROJECT
DR PIXLEY KA ISAKA SEME
22ND JULY 2014

Programme Director, my presentation will spell out clear plans on how the Department intend facilitating the creation of sustainable integrated human settlements and rural development.

As the world icon Mr Mandela is no longer with us physically, but his legacy lives on and the work he started must continue.

Thank You.