**Press Release**

**28 July 2021**

**BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR MKHULU**

The Mandela Month Commemoration Campaign has brought a smile to a partially blind 78-year old pensioner, Mr Vukile Stanato Ndibaze from Vaalbank in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, Mpumalanga. Ndibaze received a fully furnished government subsidised house and a wheelchair donated by the Collen Mashawana Foundation few days after his birthday. The activities by the department and stakholders are part of Human Settlements' Commemoration of the Mandela Month Activities.

MEC Speed Mashilo identified the family in 2019 in the area and promised to build them a new house. The foundation has pledged to build 100 houses for the needy throughout the country, of which 10 of them are earmarked for Mpumalanga.

Foundation’s Chief Operations Officer, Mr Austin Mashawana congratulated Ndibisa for his new house and wheelchair. "Today we have witnessed a true partnership from business people (contractors) NGO's and other stakeholders with government in delivering this fully furnished house. It really feels good to go to bed knowing that you have made a different in someone's life"

Delighted Ndibaze was very appreciative of the gesture, "I am so delighted that the government has kept their promise to build a new house for my family. I might not see how beautiful the house look like, but I have a feeling it is in good quality" said Ndibisa. He concluded by saying this is the best birthday present one could ever ask for, as he just turned 78 years this month.

It is important that every person must have a house as a human being, that is why this old man was staying in an area that was not conducive in a dilapidated house explained MEC Mashilo. "Today their dignity is being restored. They're going to stay in a beautiful house that will also accommodate mkhulu's disability and this one of the best houses" said Mashilo. On general housing delivery, the Department is currently constructing over 900 low cost houses in Nkangala District this financial year 2021/22. More Mandela Month activities are continuing in other localities.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**

**MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

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