



human settlements
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TaseKHAYA

Department of Human Settlements

Official External Newsletter

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POLICY & BUDGET SPEECH

Editorial Comment



Mr Freddy Ngobe
Head of Communications

Greetings and welcome to our first account of the external newsletter for the 2015/16 financial year.

With a hive of service delivery activities taking place, the Department has opened its account by announcing a whopping R1.766 billion budget which, among other deliverables, is meant to build and refurbish dwellings in most affected mining townships as well as improving informal settlements across all parts of the province.

Seeking to create reasonable social cohesion amongst all African people in the province and country, we appreciate the concerted effort by our Provincial government for firmly having led the path against the recent xenophobic attacks and ensuring that this country is safe and belongs to everyone who lives in it.

The existence of the Africa Public Service Day is crucial to us and sundry as we continuously seek to provide credible services to our people and communities. The day had much to offer and teach

as public servants continued to ply their trade at different areas of need in the province.

It was moving to see a number of our youth benefit handsomely from government programmes and projects during the Youth Day celebrations. Definitely this will never go down unnoticed as government persistently reaches out to its people. This benevolent act has impacted positively in changing the lives of many impoverished households for the better. Bravo!

Since the clock has started ticking the Department has, despite its mammoth task to deliver on sustainable housing in the province; never overlooked its responsibility to provide title deeds to all beneficiaries. To date about 2300 households have received their legal documents from the overall target of 10 000 set for this financial year.

That would be it for now, enjoy your read.

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BUDGET TO FOCUS ON KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT



NEW DRIVE: Community Residential Units built by the Department in Macharsdorp township.

Of the R1.766 billion budget allocated by the provincial Department of Human Settlements, a fine share of R227 million would be put aside to build about 11000 integrated sustainable units in the province during the 2015/16 financial year. This was articulated during the budget speech presentation by MEC Violet Siwela at the provincial Legislature on the, 28 May 2015.

Siwela reiterated the focal point in ensuring that integrated housing in the province should be prioritized as it seeks to address the segregated spatial developments of the past: "This development will be supported by the development of an urbanisation strategy. The strategy will detail how the Department

contributes to economic development goals, job creation and improved living conditions of our people," confirmed Siwela.

MEC added that the initial framework started with the hiring of capable contractors who are fired up to deliver adequate housing as expected by the Departmental housing portfolio. "This had recently shown remarkable improvement with the Department and were even able to reach our set targets during the previous financial year," indicated Siwela.

Guided by the unrelenting call to curtail the inherited failures of the past, several members of parliament in attendance substantiated in agreement the evident

commitment by the Department to have steered such a remarkable improvement over the years.

"A man is not a man until he has a home of his own," proclaimed Hon. Thulare Madileng. He added, "The Department had inexplicably improved the aging housing challenges in the province. We are confident that the budget delivered will certainly serve purpose that in many years others have failed to make possible to the people."

Specific areas of focus on planning and development of these projects will mainly be based at Tekwane South, Tekwane North, Hillsvie, Thaba Chweu, Umjindi, Steve Tshwete and Elandsplaagte.

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS UPHOLD UNITY AMONGST AFRICAN CITIZENS

A hive of activities took centre-stage when officials in the Department joined masses to celebrate Africa Day together with other African nationals on May 25, 2015. Aimed at uniting African citizens and encouraging social cohesion in a peaceful society, the celebrations had an exceptional impact in addressing among other issues, the recent xenophobic attacks that unfolded in some parts of the country.

During her address in one of the gatherings that took place during the May Month celebrations, MEC Violet Siwela strongly condemned the terrible xenophobic attacks that happened recently and advised communities to stand together in the fight against these barbaric actions.

"The African continent has come a long way in realising its independence and freedom from its colonial masters. These ugly scenes that enveloped some pockets of the land were senseless and had a potential to underscore the unity and togetherness we enjoy as Africans today," declared MEC Siwela.

On 25 May 1963, great visionaries



GRATEFUL: Ms and Mr Kleinbooi Mahlangu receive their new house from Cllr John Mavuso accompanied by local leaders from the municipality.

took the historic stride and formed an institution that would be the vanguard of the African people's aspirations for freedom, unity and solidarity – the African Union.

In her remarks, MEC Siwela added that, "It is indeed a great opportunity for us, the African continent, to pay solemn homage and tribute to the founding fathers of the Organization

of African Unity, now the African Union and promote peace and unity."

This Day would not have been possible without the sacrifices of the founding fathers and those of the African heroes and heroines who fought to liberate our continent from the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid. Today, we are free because of the sacrifices they made, concluded MEC.

DEPARTMENT DELIVERS ON GOGO'S PROMISE



ELATED: Gogo Ntombizodwa Nkabinde excited to have finally received her house after a short wait.

After a long and passionate six years of wait for a government low cost house, 91-year old Gogo Ntombizodwa Nkabinde could not hold back her tears of joy when MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Violet Siwela visited her to donate a fully furnished house to the family. Living in Morgenzon under the Lekwa Local Municipality jurisdiction, Mpumalanga, Nkabinde said that she was beginning to worry since it was approaching

winter and that she was afraid she might as well contract pneumonia. The delay to gogo's house was as a result of a mistaken duplication of stand numbers which led to her house to be built in Sakhile Township at Standerton. "I am so happy to have received my house today. This means a lot to me and an end to the many years of tossing and turning sleeplessly every night for fear of the trembling house from falling on us," sighed

the excited Nkabinde as she walked inside her new house.

In handing over the house, MEC Siwela urged contractors to assist government in addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality as the three challenges facing the country. "The Department is doing all it can to ensure that communities are settled in an integrated sustainable manner by prioritising the elderly, people with disabilities and child-headed households in housing provision", charged MEC Siwela. She further thanked the private sector and contractors who played a role in making sure that Gogo Nkabinde's house is fully furnished.

The department investigated the issue with an attempt to restore Nkabinde's dignity and housing rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. Gogo Nkabinde was then prioritized to be allocated a house during the delivery of an informal upgrading settlements programme in 2014/15 financial year.

Gogo Nkabinde's case was in the media where the department responded by committing to build her a house. The delivery is as a result of hard efforts by the municipality and the department. Nkabinde was approved to get a house in 2009, but due to the challenge, she had to wait longer as her house was built in Sakhile. She is amongst many beneficiaries prioritised by the department in housing allocation, including people with disability, the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of society.

Govan Mbeki



Awards 2015



Policy & Budget Speech 2015/16



Issuing of Title Deeds



DEPARTMENT TO TACKLE HOUSING BACKLOG

The Deputy Minister for the National Department of Human Settlements, Ms Zoliswa Kota Fredericks says that the department aims to increase housing in the country with the assistance of private sectors, stakeholders and civil society.

unequalled human settlements without any room for possible shoddy work: “Any contractor that will deliver a project that does not meet the expected standard by the Department will be barred from doing business with us in the future. We cannot be expected to always go back and rectify

migration rate is high, we are geared up to ensure that the 3,8 million housing backlog we’re currently sitting at is resolved.” Zulu added that with the assistance of private sectors the department plans on delivering 1,5 million housing opportunities to the needy people during this term of political



DISCUSSION: Peter Ndoro of the SABC News interviewing Ms Zoliswa Kota Fredericks during proceedings

Speaking at The New Age Business Meeting in Boksburg on May 13, 2015, Kota Fredericks said, “The issue at hand is backdoor dwellers because the first sectors of urban generation are saying that the Department is prioritising new people coming into our cities at their expense and not them.” Kota Fredericks mentioned that by teaming up with the other sectors the Department will strive at delivering

the flaws of other people. Such shoddy work hinders our progresses and meeting our targets on time.” Adding his voice to Kota Fredericks, the Director General in the department Mr Thabane Zulu said that the Department has plans in place to ensure that the neediest receive their houses as anticipated. He said, “Despite the huge backlog we have had and the difficulty of implementing some of our plans where the

office. Working in line with achieving this course, the Provincial Department has so far seen unremitting progress working with among other contractors, the Women in Construction initiatives that have made a sterling contribution in building and delivering integrated sustainable human settlements in the province which MEC Violet Siwela have since been handing over to the needy recently.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSES FOR DESTITUTE FAMILIES

Excitement was the order of the day when three destitute families cheerfully received their fully-furnished houses from the Department of Human settlements in Dwarsloop in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality today. The handover of the houses came hours later after MEC for the Department, Ms Violet Siwela donated about 134 school uniforms to the Pugishe Primary School learners earlier.

road to reach where we are today – and i would like to say many thanks to everyone that had played a role in recognizing me and taking me out of my plight.”

The donated houses are part of the Women in Construction project of the Department which is solely run and managed by female contractors in building integrated sustainable human settlements in the province. Speaking at the handing

MEC added by emphasizing that the community must profoundly use their constituency office in order to bring to light some of the concealed issues that needed urgent attention and that by doing so, this will heighten the chances of bring even more closer the community and the provincial government for an amicable service delivery.

“As we have promised, with the help of the local municipality, we have been able to identify these destitute families and intervened in their situations. As a caring government for our people we never stopped there but went to Pugishe Primary School and assisted the kids with their new school uniforms. These would not have been easier if there was no communication between the community and our local and provincial government,” highlighted MEC Siwela.



BENEFITTED: Ms Nomcebo Zitha with MEC Violet Siwela shortly after she received her new house

Excitedly expressing herself, a 33 year-old Ms Thembi Mashego mentioned that she will now begin to experience a peaceful sleep with her six children since they lived in fear of their old dilapidated house: “I am enthralled by the generous act of our provincial department. It has been a tough

over of the houses, MEC Siwela said: “In our strive to deliver better and laudable human settlements in the province the Department has successfully strengthened its association with the private sectors and our stakeholders to ensure that all our people’s needs are realized.”

In her closing remarks, Siwela encouraged all parents to take their children to school and never allow any dropouts under their watch. She said, “Schools like Pugishe have a serious challenge of facing closure if the enrolment is below 130. We would not allow for such a situation to happen in such a big community that can crowd the school.”

PUBLIC SERVANTS DISPLAY DEDICATED EFFORT TO SERVE DELIGENTLY

The Department of Human Settlements joined many other public and private stakeholders in celebration of the Africa Public Service Day in Kwaggafontein, Thembisile Hani Local municipality last Tuesday, 23 June 2015. The Africa public Service Day is an event entrenched in the African Union calendar, which originates from the conference of African Ministers for Public or Civil Service ever held in Morocco in the 1990's.

The day recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on the foundation of a competent civil service. It aims to celebrate the value and virtue of service to the communities. The Department together with other stakeholders celebrated this day by holding a massive event to recognize the valuable role that public servants play in making improvements in society. Activities on the

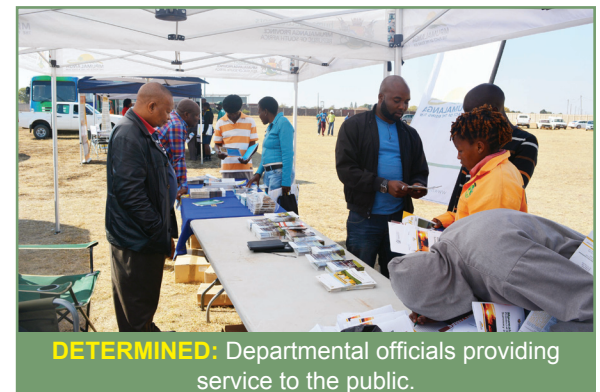
day included dissemination of dependable information with consultation stalls on site, booths about the public service and different guest speakers from various Departments who spoke on the services they are rendering to the communities as well as how to access that.

Deputy Director General (DDG) for Corporate Strategy in the province, Mr JS Mgidi mentioned that this day also serves as a platform to reflect and share practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent.

He said, "It aims to motivate public servants to further promote innovation, enhance professionalism in the public service, raise the image of public service, enhance trust in government, collect, document and share best practices for possible replication within the province

and the country as well as across the African Continent."

With Thembisile Hani local Municipality being one of the struggling rural areas due to the lack of proper housing and acceptable dwelling, the Department has committed together with other stakeholders to heighten its stride to deliver more of its sustainable and integrated human settlements in this area.



ABOUT 2300 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVE TITLE DEEDS

The Department has successfully provided about 2300 households with their title deeds in this quarter to ensure ownership to their properties. With a set target of 10 000 title deeds to be delivered this financial year, a target of 2500 is expected to be handed over quarterly to fast track the process.

MEC Violet Siwela completed that a title deed reflects as a legal document that ensures ownership of a property and that it allows home owners to make decisions that will improve their living circumstances.

Siwela said, "A title deed is not just an ordinary piece of paper, but a legal document that ought to be valued by every beneficiary for it is important. From today all the beneficiaries will have their dignities restored and livelihoods improved."

The issuing of title deeds is to facilitate the registration of the names of the housing

beneficiaries, ensure provision of security of tenure for beneficiaries, ensure their lives are continuously and economically improved through guarantees with the title deeds and satisfy the provision of legislation to provide them to beneficiaries.

Furthermore, this will also assist the municipality in a sense that, property ownership compels the owners to pay municipal rates and services received thereby contributing to its ongoing financial viability and economic sustainability.

The Housing Amendment Act.2001 allows for a beneficiary to willingly sell a government subsidized house after 8 years of ownership. The Legal Services Directorate ensures that requests of property transfers lodged at the State Attorney office are processed whereby the Department would approve the change of ownership and furnish the new owner with a Title Deed.

Title deeds backlog remains a thorny issue viewed in a serious light whereby the National Department of Human Settlements has set up a steering committee in partnership with the Estate Agency Affairs Board to speed up the issuing of documents.

The project is dubbed the Title Deed Restoration Project whereby title deeds of old projects would be dispensed. New title deeds would also be registered on the deeds register in the process. The National Department of Human Settlements Legal Services section convenes quarterly legal forums wherein all provinces participate.

One of these sessions was held at Pine Lake Inn (White River) in June where key issues such as measures to deal with illegal evictions and the prevention thereof were discussed. Proposals for the amendment of the acts which deal with the prevention of land invasion were tabled.

DEDICATED FOCUS ON SHODDY HOUSES

Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu is cracking down on companies responsible for building shoddy houses by demanding they rebuild them.

Sisulu, who was speaking to Independent Media in a briefing this month, said the government spent billions of rand a year to fix poorly built houses. "But the time had come for the government to stop this and get the contractors involved to rebuild the shoddy houses," she said while mentioning that poorly built houses cost the government R2 billion a year and it wanted to put a stop to this.

"Most of the contractors responsible needed to be tracked down and brought back to rebuild the houses. While there had been a rectification programme in the past, the government would no longer fix badly built houses from its own coffers," charged Sisulu.

The government had spent billions of rand in the past few years fixing shoddy houses, particularly in the Free State, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Mpumalanga has so far been rated amongst the best that are delivering laudable work as far as the building of integrated sustainable human settlements is concerned.

Minister added that the government would fast-track the delivery of houses in the next five years by cutting red tape and centralising the waiting list for thousands of beneficiaries saying that the 1.5 million housing target by 2019 was attainable.

She said, "The slow pace in the delivery of houses in the past four years had been due to a number of factors, including high building costs. The government would no longer build houses in small projects, but rather on a big scale in order to economise. "Out of these mega projects we are hoping to have cross-subsidisation.

We are hoping the Department of Public Works will donate land because land is expensive. We have calculated that building 1.5 million houses is, in fact, possible," she said.

They were hoping that in every human settlement there will be a clinic, school and police station. These were essential services communities needed in their new housing environment.

Sisulu said that she believed that taking away the powers from local government and putting people on a central database would fast-track delivery of houses.

The minister also cautioned that officials at local level had been interfering with the waiting list. Centralising it would eliminate any form of corruption, including people jumping the queue. She added that the policy had intended to give houses to people over the age of 60.

AN ORPHANED FAMILY BENEFITS ON YOUTH DAY

Life will never be the same again to a 28 year-old lady from Msholozhi Park in Volksrust who lived her entire childhood life in a decrepit shack with her family. Ms Zanele Nkwanyane, who's now the head of the Nkwanyane family with five siblings, tremendously benefitted a fully furnished house from the Department of Human Settlements during a Youth Day celebration in the Dr. Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality on June 27, 2015.

Her notable surprise came as a result of the Department's informal settlements upgrading project which seeks to eradicate among others; dwellings in shack houses and the occupation of derelict mud houses just to mention a few. With its target of 80 units to be built in this area, the Department has so far been able to build 74 units to completion level with 53 ready for occupation. The remaining six units will be started with and concluded before end of August this year.

In expressing her delight, Nkwanyane said that despite having to fend for her family everyday and making sure that they went to bed with a full stomach, a house was all they could ever need: "We are grateful to what our government has done to us. We really appreciate their efforts and the supreme intervention they made to our lives. May you continue to reach out to many

others with similar conditions as ours," she said gloatingly. The project has spent R5 228 802.11 with the remaining amount of R4 220 252.44 of the initial overall budget of R9 449 054.40. This informal settlement project has had a positive impact on the community of Msholozhi Park

since priority was given to people of this area for employment. Processes of skills transfer have been taking place in the project which will ultimately result in the people of Msholozhi Park acquiring skills that will afford them better work opportunities in the future.



JOYFUL: Members of the Nkwanyana family; Zanele, Amahle, Ayanda, Anele, Nonhlanhla and Siyabonga Nkwanyana at the front of their newly built house.

DEPARTMENT LAUDED FOR SERVICE DELIVERY IN NKOMAZI

The Department of Human Settlements was hailed in Nkomazi for its sterling contribution to consistently deliver on its promise to build Rural and Farm-Worker projects to impoverished residents of Mgobodzi and surrounding areas. The recognition came amid the site visits to various service delivery projects by members of the Provincial legislature during a befitting three day 'Taking Legislature to the People' campaign in June 25, 2015.

During the visits the Department revealed two of its concluded projects to the members which, beyond any reasonable doubt, were deemed as unparalleled and matching to the requirements and expectations of the Mpumalanga Provincial government. Steering the team, Deputy Speaker in the legislature Mr David Dube commended the perpetual commitment of the contractors which he said was observable from the level of work they had put in so far.

Speaking at the site, Dube said: "We are pleased with what the Department has done. This shows great commitment and working with good vision to deliver adequately to deserving people. We wish to also commend the contractors for such enthusiasm. Working with such distinction and being able to deliver such state of the art houses deserves praise."

Leading the project and explaining to the executives the details regarding the rural development in the area, Mr Mxolisi Mabuza announced that the Department is looking forward to building about 50 of these rural housing units in the area. This will also include other projects such as the war veteran project amongst many others.

One excited beneficiary of the houses Mr Obed Khoza jokingly said that he never thought he could ever own such a 'town house' in the rural areas: "This is impressive. Such a complete house for free without having to pop out a single cent from my pocket – it is amazing. I am grateful to my government for making me feel this special and restoring my peace once again," said the pleased Khoza.

The Department remains resolute to providing adequate integrated human settlements to all citizens of the province of the rising sun to curtail improper dwellings by people in shacks or corrugated housing. With the help and interventions of other stakeholders there have been massive improvements to achieve this objective in all corners of the province.



TAKING STOCK: Members of the Provincial Legislature, Ms Gabisile Tshabalala, Ms Jeaneth Ngondzweni and Deputy Speaker, Mr David Dube speaking to Ms one the beneficiaries of a house during the -'Taking Legislature to the People'- engagement.