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Media Statement

Att: Editors and Journalists

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“Housing our people remains priority” MEC Cwaile

MEC for Human Settlements Mmoloki Cwaile, has again reiterated his department’s commitment to redress and restore dignity in the lives of poor communities in the North West province. MEC Cwaile recommitted his department during the round table discussion with one Newzroom Africa, which is one of the national news channel in Johannesburg on Tuesday evening, where four provinces (North West, Limpopo, Western and the Eastern Cape were giving account on the state of its human settlements programmes.

According to Cwaile, his department will continue to build houses according to the needs of beneficiaries, making example of people living with disability and other vulnerable groups. “We are mindful of different circumstances our beneficiaries are faced with and as a department we conduct due diligence in every project we engage in.

Quality assurance and accountability forms part of our contract with service providers. We are also enrolled with the National Housing Builders Regulatory Council, which ensure quality and compliance within the industry,” said Cwaile.

Asked about challenges facing the department, MEC Cwaile, emphasised the department’s commitment to unblock blocked projects and to make sure that contractors that left shoddy work in their projects are engaged to rectify their mistakes. He said that

the department would make sure that it blacklists contractors who continue to do substandard work or leave projects incomplete.

“We have a contract with the people of the North West. We committed to build houses for them, which will bring and restore their dignity. We are selfless in approach and committed to house our people in habitable homes with basic amenities,” he said.

MEC Cwaile further spoke about many other projects his department is planning to embark on. He said that issues such as Mining towns, farming houses, land acquisition, capacity building for both internal and external houses will be at the helm of departmental agenda this financial year. He said that many families are continuing to be evicted in most farms within the province and government will not fold arms and watch people left homeless.

The department is in the process of developing township across the province which mostly will be in mining towns. Its main target will be Marikana, where according to the department immediate intervention is needed. The department is also intending to ensure that in every development there are bulk services, which will ensure that when people occupy those houses, services will be up and running.

The department will further strengthen relations with local and district municipalities to ensure that services are delivered to local communities.

“We have an obligation to bring development in the 623 villages, 12 Towns and 23 townships in the province. We do all this because we are mandated by the constitution and the outcome eight of the National Development Plan. Our young democracy is now 27 years old in this year and the achievements of the government have managed to change the lives of the people of our country for the better,” concluded Cwaile.

END

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