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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Human Settlements Department puts a smile in the faces of Moretele residents

North West MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi reiterated his Department's commitment of ensuring that communities are provided with habitable human settlements. MEC was speaking during the handover of houses to three (3) families in Dertig village, Moretele Local Municipality as part of the ongoing provincial government's Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery programme.

According to Maloyi, the houses were part of the blocked projects that his Department committed to eradicate early this year when he visited the area. "There were 300 blocked housing units in Moretele the last time I visited this area, Today, I am proud to announce that out of those 300, we are only left with 20 units which are now at roof level and will be completed in few weeks' time".

"Our observation as a department amongst all the challenges that hindered the completion of the houses were the fact that some contractors lacked capacity to complete building the houses. However, alternative initiatives to speed up completion were applied and further to that a decision was taken to only appoint contractors who have the capacity to carry out such projects as this will get rid of all the housing backlog our province has been experiencing for a long time," said Maloyi.

One of the beneficiaries is Ms Mitamini Maluleka receiving the houses on behalf of her son Stevens Maluleka who could not be present as he was out job hunting. Ms Mitamini could not hold back her tears as she reminisced her son's dream of owning a proper house and how the gesture will help him regain his confidence.

Another beneficiary who received the house on behalf of her uncle is a 21 year old Kamogelo Sithole whom declared they shared a one roomed shack as a family. According to Kamogelo, the receipt of the houses will contribute greatly in their household as they will no longer share a small space. "We used to struggle a lot, especially during the rainy season, we will now sleep peacefully at night without having worries as we have a proper house," said Kamogelo.

The Department would like to wish the beneficiaries happy beginnings in their newly built houses and urges them to refrain from renting out the houses as it's a norm in other parts of the province where our communities are turning their houses into business / residential sites by renting them to foreigners who in turn open spaza shops and shebeens and are without proper documentation.

“It is through your continued efforts that as government, we will be able to achieve the creation of human settlements that are habitable and also home to millions of fellow South Africans who continue to live in abject poverty,” concluded Maloyi.

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Issued by the Department of Human Settlements (North West)

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