

**ADDRESS BY HON. MEC WENDY NELSON  
ON OCCASION OF  
HANDING OVER OF 1956 SAWIC HOUSING  
SIGNAL HILL, MAHIKENG, 30.10.2015**

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**Premier of Bokone Bophirima Province  
Executive Mayors of Mahikeng Local Municipality  
Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality  
Councillors present today  
Acting Head of Department  
Leadership of South African Women In Construction  
Beneficiaries  
All stakeholders of Human Settlements  
Officials from the Department  
Distinguished Guests  
Dumelang  
Good Morning**

When on the 09th August 1956, twenty thousand women of all races marched to the Union Buildings, in a historical march against unjust laws, carrying of passes and the dispelling of a notion that a woman's place was on the kitchen, our mothers made it known to the world that *'wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo'*.

It is against such a historical background that one is immersed with pride to be part of this occasion to present the 1956 Women's Build 2015.

Programme Director, a conscious decision taken by government to empower women in construction is evidently yielding returns on investment, witnessed today through the sterling work carried out by South African Women in Construction.

This investment which was made by the Fifth Administration of Bokone Bophirima finds further expression in our priority economic model of Villages, Townships, and Small Dorpies Economies. It is thus symbolic that we should be gathered today in the village of Signal Hill.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Women's Build programme continues to be an overarching platform for the implementation of the Empowerment and Participation of Women in Human Settlements Framework which was approved By MINMEC in 2010.

This framework looks at addressing the issues that affect women in human settlements sector by harnessing the resources and putting in place the systems and the processes that will facilitate the empowerment of Women in Human Settlements contractors.

True to the notion and philosophical construct of *kgetsi ya tsie*, partnerships were indeed vital in the successful implementation of this project.

Against that, we appreciate the work carried out by Municipalities, the National Home Builders Registration Council, South African Women In Construction, the Department of Agriculture which donated Food Gardens, the Department of Energy through the provision of Solar Energy Panels, the Department of Social Development through Food Parcels and other social services as well as the National Youth Development Agency.

Programme Director, we continue to be aware of the housing challenges that continue to face our people. We further lament the limitations that are facing government in the task to fully restore the dignity of all our people by ensuring that the right to shelter is enjoyed by all the citizens.

Against that background, we appreciate the fact that the centrality of these houses, next to this community, will indeed be a beacon of hope to those who may not have benefitted, that tomorrow looks brighter than today, as we forge ahead with our housing development programme.

The handing over of these four units, today, symbolically remains a step in a positive direction. Indeed as the Freedom Charter asserted in June 1955, "There shall be houses, security and comfort."

A home is an important asset to all families because this is your place of shelter, safety and warmth. This is a place where your children should find comfort and have an inspired future. At the core of our the Department's mission we aim to build sustainable and integrated communities, through quality houses which are close to social amenities like schools, clinics, parks, malls and places of work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we wish to call upon our beneficiaries to please look after these units well, as three years down the line we would like to see these units as beautiful as they are today.

It is important to remember that with rights comes responsibilities. As beneficiaries this remain your heritage and your legacy for your children and family.

As I conclude, I want to make a reassurance that, we will continue to partner with South African Women in Construction as part of our national call made by Minister Sisulu and other women in building construction.



Women's Build has indeed been successful in increasing awareness on the critical role played by the women in housing construction.

We continue to value the role of South African Women in Construction and related social partners in moving the women of Bokone Bophirima Province Forward.

I thank you.