

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday 28 September 2012

‘Be ruthless to illegal occupants’ says Acting HoD

North West Human Settlements, Public Safety and Liaison, Human Settlements Branch Acting Head of the Department (AHoD), Monnapula Motlogelwa has instructed municipalities to act ruthlessly against illegal occupants on the Breaking New Grounds (BNG) subsidy houses.

The instruction came during the Acting HoD’s one-on-one sessions with municipalities in a meeting held at the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality’s Chamber.

Addressing housing managers from local municipalities within the District, Motlogelwa said the unlawful occupation on subsidy houses is the most worrying factor as at some areas has turned to violent actions.

“At some areas people have even lost their lives due to this illegal occupation issue where people refuse to vacate the houses and the eviction of such people is the local authority’s responsibility,” said Motlogelwa, encouraging municipalities faced with the same challenge to apply for an eviction order.

The Acting HoD further advised municipalities to act immediately where there’s illegal occupation. “Don’t promote sympathy on illegal occupants but

rather act ruthless to them in ensuring rightful occupation to the houses. We cannot legalise an illegal action and if you don't deal with it now you will be sitting with the same problem for the next coming five or more years to come," he said.

The Acting HoD encouraged that rightful beneficiaries must occupy their houses immediately after completion. "We should not wait for the completion of 500 or more units but rather let us allow beneficiaries to occupy their houses immediately after completion because this will assist in avoiding this worrying issue of illegal occupation and vandalism of houses."

Motlogelwa's engagement with municipalities is aimed at finding solutions to housing challenges experienced in different housing projects, creating healthy relations with municipalities and to accelerate housing delivery in the province.

The one-on-one sessions with municipalities was informed by a number of challenges experienced in the process of reducing housing backlog and incomplete projects at different municipalities.

Motlogelwa told municipalities that the sessions are aimed at strengthening partnership to ensure that the projects yield targeted job opportunities, set housing targets are met without compromise on quality, roles are clarified and that early warning and monitoring systems are in place for prompt intervention.

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