

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday 28 February 2014

Government to tackle housing backlog headon

The Department of Human Settlements Public Safety and Liaison says that it will strive to reduce the housing backlog in the province throughout the coming financial years. The department made this commitment during the official handing over of houses in Jouberton ext 16 in Matlosana on Friday.

According to head of the Department for Human Settlements Branch Moss Kgantsi, the department is aware about it and it will continue to budget for the construction of houses where they are mostly needed. He said that the department will continue to work with municipalities to ensure that proper houses are delivered to legible beneficiaries.

“We have been tasked by government to ensure that we deliver houses to the people of the North West and further ensure that we restore their dignity. We have done that and will celebrate the 20 years of democracy with pride because we know that we have delivered and continue to deliver,” said Kgantsi.

One of the beneficiaries is the 70 year old Samuel Phiri, who says he has never stayed in a proper house before. He said that he is grateful that government has build a house for him and that he survives through social grants which has been caring him since he stopped working in farms.

“I have been staying with my relatives and could not progress in life as I did not have a place of my own. Today I have a home and I am staying comfortably without fear of eviction or being exposed to health hazard environment,” said Phiri.

The Department officially handed over about 188 houses to families, whom mostly have been staying in shacks or backrooms

The gesture is part of the departmental handing over programme of more than 8 000 houses between the February and end March, across the province. The programme also seeks to speed up eradication of informal settlements, restoring the dignity community members and celebrating 20 years of democracy.

The handing over programme which will continue until the end of March, constitute low cost houses, rental stock, financially linked individual subsidy programme and Community residential units.

(Picture: HOD Moss kgantsi handing over keys to Samuel Phiri of ext 16 Jouberton in Matlosane)

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