

Media Statement

Friday 26 July 2013

Mandela legacy continues to bring a sigh of relief to NW destitute families

Destitute families of Ratanang community in Klerksdorp will soon have houses in their names as the North West Department of Human Settlements, Public Safety and Liaison intends to buy the land they are living in and build them proper house structures.

The announcement was made by the Human Settlements Branch Chief Financial Officer Mandla Magwetyana, on behalf of MEC Nono Maloyi during the 67 minutes of Nelson Mandela's birth day celebrations.

MEC Maloyi said that access to housing is one of the democratic rights the former President Mandela fought for. "North West Government is in the process of negotiations with the land owner and we hope that will be concluded soon. Buying this land and constructing housing units will be fulfilling our constitutional mandate and further reducing housing backlog in the province. The completion of this process will indeed bring a sigh of relief to these families," said Maloyi.

Maloyi said this will improve the living conditions and bring back dignity to the marginalized communities.

Meanwhile, the communities could not hide their excitement when the departmental officials handed out food parcels to all households in the area, as a gesture of Mandela month celebrations.

A community representative, Lerato Mokgatla thanked the government for the gifts they received particularly that the department intends to build houses for them. "We always thought that the government had forgotten about us and we had almost given up. But with

today's gesture we are indeed hopeful and humbled that one day we will have houses registered on our names," said the excited Mokgatla.

The Departmental officials visited a number of families around the area and volunteered to clean in those households as a way of continuing to honor the great legend Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

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ENQUIRIES: Simon Lesolang Mmope (DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON)

TEL : (018) 388 4826

CELL : 082 574 7621

FAX : (018) 391 0328

EMAIL : smmope@nwpg.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, PUBLIC SAFETY & LIAISON