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MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All Editors and Journalists

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New houses for the elderly in Masutlhe

It was not a usual Friday morning for the Mafete and Lecom families as they became proud owners of new houses during the recent North West Provincial Government's accelerated service delivery programme, Thuntsha Lerole at Masutlhe 2, Mahikeng Local Municipality.

78 year old visually impaired Shuping Mafete, could not contain joy and happiness as he received his new keys from North West Acting Premier and MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi. According to Shuping, he has been staying in a 1 roomed house with 5 dependants and did not have any form of privacy as the 1 room served as a bedroom, kitchen and living space.

"Today is indeed a great day for me and my family, I would like to thank the government and everyone who made this possible as our living conditions have been improved, it really means the world to me" said Shuping.

Another beneficiary, 64 year old Mapula Lecom who stays with one dependant also shared the same sentiments as she was handed over with keys to her new house. Mapula is one of the many residents who have been on the waiting list and said she is grateful to the provincial government as she has finally been recognised.

"I will now be able to sleep in peace and comfortably unlike before because they shack that I have been staying in with my daughter was a health hazard and often caused a risk to our health, especially during winter season were we would get affected due to strong cold winds and rainy season as the shack was leaking and got flooded every time when it's raining," said Mapula.

Acting Premier Maloyi acknowledged that his department is faced with a lot of housing backlog, but promised that they will do everything in their bit to ensure that beneficiaries receive their houses as the department is mandated to do so.

“Receiving a house is more than just a roof over your head; it’s about restoring dignity to those who have had difficult lives and suffered in the past,” said Acting Premier Maloyi.

The department also handed over 135 title deeds to deserving beneficiaries as part of the ongoing Title Deeds Friday campaign. This is another government initiative that seeks to recognise residents as rightful owners of land and property.

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Issued by the Department of Human Settlements (North West)

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