



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND ICT

3366 Besemmer Str Telkom Building
Industrial Site Mahikeng, 2745
Private Bag X 2145, Mmabatho, 2735
Tel: +27 (18) 388 4824/5

NWDC Cnr, University & Provident Drive
Private Bag X 2145, Mmabatho, 2735
Tel: +27 (18) 388 4913

2nd Floor West Wing, University Drive
Garona Building
Private Bag X 2145, Mmabatho, 2735
Tel: +27 (18) 388 4824/5

MEDIA STATEMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONTINUES TO FINANCE FIRST HOME BUYERS

First home finance, a program by the Department of Human Settlements has benefited yet another beneficiary who was earning more to qualify for an RDP house, to buy a house in Mahikeng. Masego Motlhatlego a 42 years old from Mahikeng has moved into her new home after being assisted by the Department through the First Home Finance program, which was formerly known as Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP).

Motlhatlego is a mother of three and has been working for government for almost ten years now. Before occupying the house Motlhatlego was staying at her parents' house with her children. She learnt about the subsidy through a workshop she attended and went to the department for further information. She was then advised to apply. "I followed all the processes of buying a house and I am proud to say the department has really helped me a lot looking at the economy now, I am financially relieved," said Motlhatlego.

The overwhelmed Motlhatlego said that she moved into her home recently with disbelief. "I am happy, I am on cloud nine, for what the department has done for me and please continue helping others like you did for me," she added.

The programme has been tailor-made for those who earn average to qualify for a free government home or low cost house, but too less to qualify for mortgage in any financial institution. The North West Department of Human Settlements urges communities to apply for First Home Finance so that they become home owners for

the first time. The Department has subsidized 48 beneficiaries in the last financial year and for this year the department has planned to subsidize 90 more.

To qualify, a beneficiary has to be a South African citizen whose household income is from R3 501 up to R22 000 per month. The subsidy is paid into one's bank or financial institution and will reduce the monthly loan instalments, making it more affordable to buy a home. The Department, as it is mandated to ensure that people have roof over their heads, urges communities to make use of this platform especially who earn average salaries to benefit from the subsidy.

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Contact person: Director: Corporate Communications & ICT, Dineo Lolokwane

Tel no: (018) 388 2081

Cell no: 083 376 9400

Email: dlolokwane@nwpg.gov.za or

MEC's Spokesperson: Mr Tumelo Maruping

072 901 7653

(018) 388 2884



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