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Media Statement

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ABT BEAR FRUITS DURING MANDELA DAY

For over three years, Bakang Mahlangu stayed in a dilapidated shack. During rainy seasons, the roof would leak and the shack would also get waterlogged. This was a difficult period in his life. Mahlangu is the only surviving member of his family.

On Mandela Day, his life changed for the better when the Acting Premier of the North West Province, Patrick Dumile Nono Maloyi, handed over a newly built house in Chaneng Village in the Rustenburg Local Municipality. The house was built using alternative building technology.

The construction of this house emanated from the discussions during the ABT Summit held in Sun City recently. The 52 years old was the first recipient of an ABT house on the commemoration of Mandela Day. "Today my prayers have been answered. I am a happy man and this house will heal all the pain and suffering I went through, I cannot thank the department enough," said Mahlangu.

To make Mahlangu's house more habitable and homely, a number of donations in respect of beddings and groceries were also received from various donators including Sun City Resort

Meanwhile, the departmental officials donated food, clothes and toiletries to Reatlegile Child and Youth Care Centre at Dibate Village in the Mahikeng Local Municipality in commemoration of Mandela Day. Sun City Resorts also donated blankets, linen and towels. The centre was established by the 60 year old Boitumelo Selepe in 2007. It operates through donations from local Ebenezer Church. The centre accommodates 23 children aged between one and 21 years of age whom most are Orphans. "The centre is in need of security, proper beds, improved infrastructure and guaranteed supply of food," said Selepe.

The department will continue to seek assistance from other organisations to support the centre.

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