



## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND ICT

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

**To : All Editors and Journalists**

**Date : 21 November 2023**

#### ***The April family receives an ABT house***

The April Family in Madibogopan in the Ratlou local municipality recently celebrated with tears as they received keys to their house which was built by a philanthropist. The house, which is one of the few to be built through Alternative building technology in the province has brought a serious relieve to the family as they have been living in a one roomed mud house, extended with another one roomed shack.

The family of 10 has been living in Madibogo Pan for the past few decades. They only rely on social grants as no one in the family is employed. Other two members of the family do not have identity documents. The old house which has been used as kitchen, bedroom, and a living room and bathroom all at the same time, has seen the family struggling to ensure privacy, as well as living in hazardous conditions. The mud house was in a brink of collapsing, the shack was also not in such a good condition, as it could be destroyed by heavy winds.

Receiving the keys to her newly build house, a 51 year old Sophy April was all in tears and unable to express herself, for the beautiful gift she has received. Ms April kept on quoting bible scriptures, giving thanks to the generosity of government and all other people who contributed towards the building of her house. She said that it's a great relief to her family to receive such a beautiful houses with furniture. She however appealed to government assist the two members of her family who do not have identity documents to be assisted, as well as employment for others and a fence to her yard.

"I have never received such a gift in my life. These are blessings to me and my family. It gives me great pleasure to know that we will be living a proper houses with furniture. I want to thank government for the loving gesture and for being considerate. We have been asking for assistance from our local municipality, the councillors, local traditional leadership and others. I almost lost hope. But today God showed his mercy on us. I would like to thank everybody including government for their kindness and love", said April with unstoppable teary eyes.

Human Settlements MEC Nono Maloyi expressed his satisfaction on all companies that has pledged to build houses for most needy families as the province is experiencing a serious housing backlog. The department adopted the alternative building technology programme, mainly to assist in expediting housing delivery and reduce the current housing backlog. The technology has been more than the normal building technology and its more faster to construct.



To address the housing backlog, the department previously signed a memorandum of understanding with six Alternative Building Technology companies on investment and delivery of 95 thousand housing units of various typologies over the next 5 years. The MOU was signed during the department's two day summit held in Sun City recently.

"I am pleased to see business working with government to ensure that we deliver services to our communities. I am also pleased to see that this family has brought local traditional council and local government to work as a unit. The situation in this family and other many families across the province need such immediate interventions. We need more philanthropists to assist government to close such gaps. I am personally grateful, that the Sun City summit and the resolutions adopted there, are now coming to fruition. We thank business like the Mr Otukile Kgabi and many others who heard our call and delivered as promised," said MEC Maloyi.

The local Kgosi Motseothata Phoi the mayor and other leaders who were there to witness the handing over encored the same sentiments with MEC Maloyi. Kgosi Phoi also promised to donate a fence, while others donated Jojo tanks, Sun City also donated linen and other household items. The department of Human Settlements assured members of that public that that it will continue to work closely with other spheres of government and ensure that services are delivered to the people of the North West Province.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Human Settlements (North West)**

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