



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DATE

22 April 2010

Human Settlements Today

DAILY NEWS CLIPPINGS

Compiled by Communication Services: Media Relations Services

HEADLINES	PAGE	COMMENTS <small>Please write your comments here and send back to Media Relations Services 6th Floor</small>
1 570 officials netted for corruption	1	
R32m contract raises query	2	

Breaking new ground in housing delivery
Housing, Security & Comfort

1 570 officials netted for corruption

1 PRETORIA NEWS

22/04/2010

PAGE 2

CAIPHUS KGOSANA

POLITICAL BUREAU

MORE than 1 500 corrupt government officials were nabbed for housing graft since November, and the government recovered R38 million, Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale said, tabling his R16 billion budget in Parliament yesterday.

"Corruption has become endemic in our society and needs to be rooted out. This much must be clear: we are undeterred in our resolve to eradicate this plague, which is so debilitating to society."

Collaboration with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) had netted 1 570 government officials abusing the low-income housing subsidy scheme. Of those nabbed, 1 189 were charged and convicted, and government recouped R38m.

Sexwale told MPs that five lawyers had been struck off the roll for their involvement in the housing fraud and he expected other corrupt lawyers to suffer the same fate.

The SIU was working with the Auditor-General's office and national and provincial housing departments to identify corrupt officials, Sexwale said.

"The team is tracking down those responsible for corruption, abuse and malpractices," he said.

Sexwale also announced that since he became minister, his department had saved millions by cutting back on travelling (R20.6m), advertising (R24.4m), operational expenditure (R53.2m), administrative fees (R3.3m) and freezing posts considered not critical (R31m).

He said the department had also saved R34m by reducing transfers of funds to institutions it administers.

The DA alerted Sexwale to information it had obtained that the acting CEO of the National Home Builders Registration Council - an agency responsible for preventing shoddy workmanship - had entered into a R78m contract with the Gauteng housing department to build 1 431 RDP houses. Sexwale urged the DA to bring evidence of corruption. He would take it up with the council.

R32m contract raises query

THE DA is calling for an investigation into a R32 million contract awarded to Siphon Mashinini, CEO of the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC), to build RDP houses in Gauteng.

DA MP Butch Steyn said he was in possession of a copy of a contract which reveals that Devgroep Investments, a company represented by Mashinini, was awarded a contract by the Gauteng Department of Local Government and Housing for the construction of 600 housing units.

The contract makes provision for a phase two, which comprises the construction of another 832 units for around R45m.

"The awarding of a government housing contract to Devgroep constitutes a direct conflict of interest," said Steyn.

"In his capacity as CEO of the NHBRC, he has the duty to protect the interests of housing consumers against unscrupulous home builders and manage a warranty fund in the event of claims against such builders who do not fulfil their obligations."

Steyn said it was unclear how Mashinini "adequately and in an unbiased fashion" would perform his role if he had a vested interest in a company responsible for the development of RDP houses.

"This effectively places him in the position of judge, jury and the defendant should his company, like so many in this market, provide shoddy workmanship.

"This could possibly be an issue that might arise, particularly as Mashinini does not have a track record as a developer." - Sapa



UPBEAT: Minister of Human Settlements Tokyo Sexwale says he is determined to root out corruption.

PICTURE: CINDY WAXA

1 500 housing officials netted for fraud, R38m retrieved

CAIPHUS KGOSANA

MORE than 1 500 corrupt government officials have been nabbed for corruption related to housing since November last year and R38 million has been retrieved by the government, Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale said yesterday. Tabling his R16 billion budget in Parliament yesterday, he said collaboration with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to root out housing fraud had netted 1 570 government officials abusing the low-income housing subsidy scheme.

Of those nabbed, he said, 1 189 had been charged and convicted, and the government had been able to recoup about R38m in the process.

"Corruption has become endemic in our society and needs to be rooted out. This much must be clear: we are

undeterred in our resolve to eradicate this plague, which is so debilitating to society at large," he said.

He told MPs that five lawyers had been struck off the roll for their involvement in housing fraud, and he expected other corrupt lawyers to suffer the same fate.

Sexwale said the SIU had been working in partnership with the Auditor-General's office and national and provincial departments to identify corrupt officials across the country.

"The team is hard at work tracking down those responsible for corruption, abuse and malpractices," he said.

Sexwale also announced that since he became minister, his department had saved a total of R120m through cut-backs on travelling and advertising and by freezing posts.

Judicial rulings worry Sexwale

LINDA ENSOR
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale has expressed concern over "the legalisation of illegality" which had resulted from a number of judicial rulings on matters within his portfolio and which he warned could result in the "collapse" of government plans and budgets.

Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Jeff Radebe had been mandated by the Cabinet to assist him in resolving this matter, Sexwale said in his budget vote speech in Parliament yesterday.

He said the unintended consequences of the rulings had been a negative effect on the mandate of his department and in some cases the forced amendment of human settlements policy "with

severe and unplanned budgetary consequences".

Unlawful behaviour was legitimised by a series of court rulings, he said.

The most recent far-reaching ruling was that against the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality whereby the city was ordered to pay rent to a private property owner on behalf of illegal occupiers until alternative accommodation had been found. Hence the reference to the legalisation of illegality.

Sexwale said service delivery protests around the country could be partly attributed to the slow pace of progress in dealing with the huge housing backlog. Since 1994, more than 2,3-million housing units have been made available for nearly 11-million people but the number of informal settlements had ballooned to more than 2 700.

ensorl@bdfm.co.za

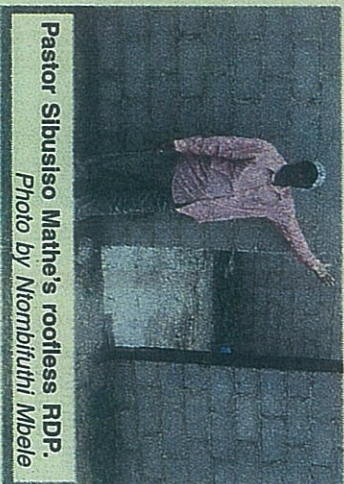
PRAYING FOR A ROOF

By MUZI ZINCUME
IT'S HAS been eight years of empty promises for this man of God!

He still hasn't received the RDP he was supposed to get back in 2003.

Pastor Sibusiso Mathe (44), from Emandambini in Mandeni, north of KZN, told *Daily Sun* that he was singing with joy when the builders came to build his RDP house. But his happiness didn't last long because the builders vanished without completing the job.

Mathe said that in the same year a heavy storm in the area destroyed many houses. "We applied for RDP houses when the then Housing MEC, Mike Mabuyakhulu, came to our area and told us to apply." A short while later the contractor came



Pastor Sibusiso Mathe's roofless RDP.
Photo by Nombuthi Mbele

to build houses. "My five kids sleep at my neighbour's because we can't share the small house that my wife and I live in," said Mathe.

Mathe said he wrote to both KZN and the national housing department and was told MECs were working on his complaint.

But until now nothing has been done. Petros Hlongwane is another resident facing the same problem.

"I had to put old zinc on top of the wall instead of a roof.

"The door frames shake and the cement is weak," he said.

Project monitor Revor Govender told *Daily Sun* the question needed to be directed to the head of KZN human settlements himself.

The KZN head of human settlements department, Wayne Broughton said his department would investigate to see what they could do.