

# PRESIDENT ZUMA OPENS THE N2 GATEWAY



## Zuma assures Cape Town residents Government would deliver on housing

“Iyeza nakuwe.” (Your turn will come). That is the assurance President Jacob Zuma gave the residents of Langa township in Cape Town at the official opening of the N2 Gateway Housing project.

Before his address to the community, Zuma accompanied by National Ministers and the Acting Director-General of the Department of Human Settlements, fielded questions from residents aggrieved by the pace of development in the area.

Community leader Zithulele Ngesi said beneficiaries were still waiting to receive houses that they applied for many years ago. “There are unqualified people who are getting houses; they are placing other people in houses meant for us. We are still standing firm on our decision that we will not be moved to Delft. We want our houses here,” said Ngesi.

Others like Vusi Madindi of the Sivukile Sonele, a non-governmental organisation operating in the area said the housing project was a source of conflict instead of an integrated community. He added many people were unhappy with the allocation process and appealed to the President to ensure the issue was looked into.

Zuma told the gathering that the different spheres of Government, including the National, Provincial Departments and Municipality would look into the concerns raised. “It’s important that we note your complaints and I’m glad that you have raised them because as government we can see that we are slowly but surely making progress. Unlike before whereby everyone wanted houses, now you’re highlighting different areas having houses and some areas not having any.

“Iyeza nakuwe. Be patient. I want to assure those who still live in backyards that they too will receive houses. We have not forgotten you. Change is coming soon,” said the President.

“Government is hopeful that these interventions would drastically help eliminate the existence of informal settlements in which it’s often difficult to deliver essentials such as health and education services. Like most mega projects, the N2 gateway initially encountered numerous hitches, including lack of agreements on the housing typologies that had to be built and lack of agreements on who should benefit from the project.”

“However, experience as they say, is a great teacher. We have learnt from our experiences and we continue to refine our approach and policies in order to ensure that we achieve good outcomes, and that these are achieved in a quicker and shorter space,” said Zuma.

## Joy as more families receive new homes as part of the N2 Gateway project

A handful of families in an around the N2 Gateway housing development project in Cape Town shed tears of joy after being told they would be among those who will receive new homes when President Jacob Zuma visited the area on Thursday the 15th of October.

Officials from the National Department of Human Settlements, including the Acting Director-General Mbulelo Tshangana as well as those from the provincial Department of Human Settlements, accompanied Zuma to the hand-over ceremony. The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Zou Kota-Fredericks was also present. Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu could not attend as her family is still mourning for her brother Mlungisi Sisulu who passed away last week.

Among those who were ecstatic about the news of moving into a new home was Headman Dyantyi (70) who had spent many years staying in a shack in Joe Slovo. “I cannot even remember for how long I have been staying in Joe Slovo. It has been a long time,” said Dyantyi who stays with his 67-year-old wife Nomfuneko and their grandchildren. “I was always worried that my belongings will be burnt to ashes because there are common outbreaks of fire in these shacks. I have been staying here for many years now and I had almost given up hope on ever getting my own house,” he said.

“Now that I have my own house, I will have electricity and I can read my Bible and listen to my favourite radio programmes without making any noise that would affect my daughter and grandchildren,” said Dyanti.

The recipients of the new houses ranged from 40 to 70 years in age. Fifty-one-year-old Mthandazo Gaqa, his wife Nozakhele and their five children, four boys and a girl, were among those who were all smiles on Thursday. They have been living in a shack for more than 15 years. The long wait also ended when they received their brand new flat at Joe Slovo. His family had to relocate from another section of the settlement to open up spaces for the new development.

So far, a total of 14 000 units have been completed as part of the N2 Gateway development, which has had a positive impact in areas such as Langa, Gugulethu and Delft. Zuma promised the community that the Government would strive to deliver the remaining 6000 units at least before the end of its term in 2019. He also made a commitment that various spheres of Government would work with the affected communities to address concerns and problems arising as part of the N2 Gateway development.



HOME SWEET HOME: President Jacob Zuma, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Zou Kota-Fredericks celebrate with Nomakhosazana Nogunisa and her son Unabantu as well as the Western Cape MEC of Human Settlements Bonginkosi Madikizela.



TIME FOR APPRECIATION: President Jacob Zuma greets one of the beneficiaries at Joe Slovo section in Langa township during the hand over of 1044 units as part of the N2 Gateway project.

The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Zou Kota-Fredericks, Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Western Cape MEC of Human Settlements Bonginkosi Madikizela, unveiled a plaque at one of the construction sites to commemorate the official opening of the project.

To date, the project has delivered over 14 000 houses. The Department of Human Settlements will complete a further 6 000 units by 2019. Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has promised that the Government would complete the remaining part of the project at least before the end of the current term. Minister Sisulu launched the project about 10 years ago as part of a coordinated Government intervention to tackle the shortage of houses in Cape Town especially in black communities. Since the project began, most of the shacks that were along the N2 freeway have now given way for blocks of flats and other housing typologies covering areas like Joe Slovo in Langa, various sections of Delft as well as Gugulethu.



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