



**MINISTRY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.: 4144

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Mr B M Bhanga (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

- (1) Why were the residents who added extensions to their Breaking New Ground government houses in Mhlaba Village in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in the Eastern Cape excluded in the rectification programme in the area;
- (2) whether it is government policy that those who take extra effort to extend their Breaking New Ground houses must be excluded in rectification projects; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the further relevant details? **NW5017E**

REPLY:

- (1) The residents of the Mhlaba Village in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality who extended their Breaking New Ground (BNG) government subsidised houses did not qualify for the Rectification Programme because the Rectification Policy clearly states that, "Under no circumstances shall alterations to the original dwellings qualify for rectification nor be included in the rectification programme."
- (2) The National Housing Programme for the rectification of subsidised houses that were built during the period 15 March 1994 and 1 April 2002, was specifically introduced to address cases where dwellings had structurally failed due to design flaws, problematic geotechnical conditions which were not catered for in the specification of the houses or to repair houses that were damaged before occupation by the approved housing subsidy beneficiaries. These affected

houses were not enrolled under the National Home Builders Registration Council's (NHBRC) warranty scheme and the relevant houses were pre-identified and recorded in a register. No additions to the register were allowed. The Rectification Programme is not applicable in cases where lack of general maintenance or neglect has led to the deterioration of the dwellings.

Secondly, the Programme prescripts only apply to the original superstructure that was constructed with the housing subsidy funding; structural failures of any additions or improvements to the houses that were affected by the beneficiaries are thus excluded from the scope of the rectification work.

Honourable Member, I am amazed that this question is even raised. We all know that we are working tirelessly against an ever increasing backlog and diminishing resources. Surely, we should not encourage total dependency in the State. If people are able to incrementally improve their houses, it suggest that they have the means. We should focus on those who are still waiting for shelter. It is a responsible thing to do."