



MINISTRY  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Address by L N Sisulu, MP, Minister of Human Settlements, at the  
annual Govan Mbeki Awards  
24 November 2016, Durban International Convention Centre**

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Ministers and Deputy Ministers

MECs and MMCs of Human Settlements

Executive Mayors

Chairpersons and Members of the of the Portfolio and Select Committees on  
Human Settlements

Chairpersons, Board and Council Members and Heads of all DHS  
Institutions and Agencies

Honourable guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

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This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards. The awards were instituted during my first term in this portfolio in 2006. It had become clear to us that, to show appreciation and

encourage excellence, we had to find a tangible way of expressing this. We inaugurated these Awards and named them after the late Govan Mbeki in recognition of the passion he infused in the struggle and partnering with key stakeholders in order to further the cause of building a nation free of inequality. In everything he did his passion was palpable. We took his name to bestow on the recipients of this prestigious award the same passion for what they do, believing that without passion, man is nothing but an empty shell. German Philosopher, Georg Hegel said that “Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.” It is our intention that we imbue all of you with the same passion, that we can jointly be poised to accomplish that which we would call great!

Thankfully, not only have the Awards survived, they have actually grown in stature and prestige. We are now able to acknowledge international figures that have played a significant role in our development. Not only do they recognise individual achievements, they are also an indication of the road we have travelled. When we entered this space ten years ago, the country celebrated the fact that we had built one million houses. The country won international acclaim for that. Now we celebrate 4.3 million houses and subsidies.

We are undoubtedly the world’s first. And yet, strangely, we no longer talk about it as the great success that we would so often boast about. This could be attributable to the fact that we have become accustomed to this success and predictability and complacency have crept in to take the place of loud acclaim. Perhaps this is good? I don’t know, but I would want us to take on this different perspective. This government has spent almost R170 billion

since 1994 to ensure the indigent and vulnerable are housed in decency. We should repeat that at every opportunity, because failure to do so would be to forfeit the enormity of the gains we have made and to relegate this wonderful profession to be the preserve of nay sayers.

Today we are in a better space than we were last year, when I was extremely upset when I saw the trend of delivery continuing on a downward spiral and happening in my time. I indicated then that in my first tenure in this portfolio we were able to ascend the heights of delivery because we could, because we wanted to and because we drove the departments to deliver better. And then I noticed in my second tenure that there was a consistent downward spiral, reaching its lowest level last year. I can now indicate that we seem to be back on track, but I cannot say that I am content with where we are. **(SLIDE)**

We have committed to delivering 6 million houses and subsidies by 2019 and this we shall do. We are at 4.4 million houses and subsidies currently, so we have 1.6 million to go. Basically this translates to 400 000 houses and subsidies per year, which is doable. And until we have reached 400 000 per year, no official of Human settlements, whether at national, provincial or local government level will receive a performance bonus. This means we have to strengthen our oversight and monitoring capacity and that every DG and HoD have to ensure that targets and achievements are monitored. When each one achieves their targets the effect is that we are all able to meeting our target, which is numbers. Fortunately we are now going into a phase of catalytic projects and I am hopeful this will cover the numbers. However, if

our measurement is numbers, that has to be part of the contractual obligations of our contractors at every level.

We have had our hard times, we have made mistakes along the way, but the distance we have travelled and its impact should never be allowed to disappear into the nothingness. Today we can claim one residential market that is valued at R7 trillion. Today we can claim a steady pace of transformation. Murray and Roberts is now owned by Southern Palace, a wholly Black-owned and managed South African company, Motheo Construction is now building in Sandton.

Undoubtedly we can do more and we shall. When economically stable countries like Algeria beg our construction industry to come and build in their country, we have created a reputation. When out of the unemployed in Nelson Mandela Bay we created a SMME that we pay R16 million a week, then we are empowering.

Our dream of turning South Africa into a construction site remains our beacon. We will get our administration right and we will create a well oiled delivery machine, so that when our contractors don't get paid on time, the public servants responsible will also not get their salaries. But even as we aim for that stage of functionality, we rightfully pause to acclaim those who have done well and in future we will create a brand of our industry. Calgro will no longer be Calgro Ltd, it will be Calgro – made in South Africa.

There will be Human Settlements billboards everywhere we build so that none can overlook or forget. And it will state "Human Settlements:

Housing 22 million people and growing”, and in our mega projects it will be “Human Settlements: South Africa is number 1 in the world!” We are able to do this because we have a whole range of people in the private sector making us proud, making us great.

Today is their day, a time we carefully put aside to say thank you, well done, do it over again and again. We are mindful of the many failures that we have been responsible for, but we continue to reiterate our commitment to do better.

The Govan Mbeki Awards is a prestigious annual ceremony that culminates at the level of the Department of Human Settlements, having been run through the Provincial levels and seek to showcase and demonstrate excellent work done by the department, with special emphasis on the department’s key outcomes. Furthermore, the awards promote best practice, create a healthy competition among participating stakeholders and are used as a monitoring measure to ensure delivery of housing opportunities to the people of South Africa.

The awards are meant to motivate all stakeholders in the Human Settlements value chain to harness the human and other resources in accelerating housing delivery. In turn, this would become a key driving factor in a quest to improve the lives of ordinary people through building sustainable livelihoods, communities and job opportunities. Lastly, the awards also count as an enabler for the development of different housing opportunities with security of tenure and easy access to basic services like water, electricity and sanitation.

There are thirteen (13) categories competing at provincial level and fifteen (15) at national level. This year we saw the introduction of two new merit awards. These are the awards for Journalist of the year and the Greening and Landscaping. Unfortunately, at the time of assessment, the criterion for the two categories was still under consideration.

The provincial ceremonies for the 2016 chapter of awards were successfully hosted in all nine provinces during the months of August to September 2016.

The Govan Mbeki Awards consist of two stages, at provincial and national level. The provinces are expected to nominate applicants that have excelled in each of the Key Performance Areas to compete nationally.

The overall winners of each category in the provincial competition proceed to participate in the national competition. The nominees go through an assessment process where information is verified, and projects are visited. Furthermore, the finalists go through the adjudication process where three finalists are selected in each category. The process is subjected to both internal and external audits to ensure the credibility of the processes.

Two years ago an additional category, the lifetime Achievement Award in honour of service excellence and noteworthy contributions was introduced.

This year will see awards given in all 15 categories, including the two important categories of Municipality of the Year and Province of the year.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the achievement of the delivery of 4.3 million houses and subsidies due to good strategic partnerships we have with the Provincial MEC,s, the Banking Association, Developers, Conveyancers, material suppliers, home builders, Architects, etc. I would like to especially acknowledge all the builders and developers that have been part of this success since 1994.

The Department of Human Settlements will also play host to the most significant golfing event called the “Govan Mbeki Golf Challenge”. This will take place tomorrow at the Edgecombe Golf Course and I look forward to seeing all of you there, whether playing or supporting.

The Govan Mbeki Golf Challenge is a fund-raising platform, where anyone, irrespective of skill can be part of this noble act as part of its legacy and charitable work.

The primary objective would be to build partnerships through fundraising across the public, private and non-governmental sectors towards a common goal of providing shelter for an identified charity. Our various partners will participate in the building of those identified projects.

Funds raised through this event will be used to build or upgrade homes for children living with disability, Aids Orphanages and Skills Development Centres for young people. The beneficiary of this year’s event will be an elderly person who resides in KZN. Further information regarding this issue will be made available in due course.

The built environment sector is one crucial sector that drives the South African economy. Human Settlement caters for all sections of the population from the cradle to the grave. You are housed at birth until death where you are housed in a grave with a grave number and a burial certificate that could count as a title deed. The clarion call that we have made to the department and to the many contractors with our various projects is that they should assist us in our determination to radically transform this sector for the benefit of most of our people. We wish to argue that transformation is not negotiable and must be factored in all the projects that are awarded so that all of our people must see and appreciate the full value and material benefit from their government. This applies, in the main to the setting aside of most projects for women and the youth.

The critical challenge is to grow the economy so that the economic safety nets through a myriad government interventions can be sustainable and expanded. The Human Settlement sector must make its critical share in increasing job opportunities through transforming the sector so that as many new players must be brought on board. Stats South Africa has just released its findings on their recent study into the statistics behind our growth and these tell of a gloomy rising unemployment. The Quarterly labour force survey (QLFS) for the third quarter (Q3) of 2016 indicate that the unemployment rate is now at its highest since 2003, having risen by 0,5% to 27,1%.

Transformation is a central part of what we need to achieve and sometimes this object is delayed in the implementation of most of the projects because there are so many boxes that must be ticked. These boxes are vital and the challenge must be about how we make the system effective



and efficient so that these many conditions are met and fulfilled without jeopardising the delivery of the houses to the needy. There are many contractors who would not see the light of day had it not been for the support that they get from the government.

2016 was an important year for the global human settlements fraternity. Last month over 170 member states of the United Nations and representatives of local government, civil society, the private sector, academia, and practitioners met in Quito, Ecuador for the long anticipated Habitat III conference, to deliberate and agree on a new twenty year agenda to tackle human settlements in a rapidly urbanizing world. I was privileged to lead Team South Africa comprised of Ministers, MECs, Mayors, Councillors, national, provincial and local officials, SALGA and human settlements institutions at this important occasion, and I am very pleased to be able to report to you that it was a big success.

We had been preparing for this conference for well over two years, intensively engaging with many of you, first by taking stock of what South Africa has achieved in terms of human settlements and urban development since the previous Habitat Conference twenty years ago, and then to agree on what our agreed priorities would be for a global commitment for the next twenty years. In addition to the extensive dialogue with you on South Africa's position for Habitat III, we participated in an intensive international engagement in preparation for Habitat III. We contributed to crafting a Common African Position for Habitat III which was endorsed at the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government. We also decided to host one of the Habitat III international preparatory thematic meetings to agree

with our global partners on a concrete proposal for how we would address informal settlements and slums in the next twenty years.

Our hard work paid off. South Africa was able to take its rightful place as a leading global voice, speaking from our own experience and based on a recognition of our significant achievement and leadership over the past twenty years in the provision of adequate housing and human settlements. We were called upon to share our approach in many of the parallel sessions, on informal settlements, housing, urban development, municipal financing, governance, addressing climate change in cities and human settlements, and monitoring and evaluation. We were able to welcome many visitors to our exhibition which showcased the programmes and projects that led us to providing 4.3 million households with housing and opportunities. Because of our leadership, we were successfully able to ensure all the major proposals of the South African position and the Common African Position are included in the New Urban Agenda we were able to unanimously adopt in Quito as the forward-looking, action oriented global commitment to addressing housing and sustainable urbanisation, valid until at least 2036.

We bring back from Quito not only the global affirmation and recognition for our achievement, but also lessons and knowledge that will enrich and motivate us for the work that now lies before us to create human settlements and cities that drive economic development, promote social and spatial inclusion and integration, and create sustainable and liveable environments.

Tonight is a night of celebration. But we are all too aware that we cannot rest on our laurels. The New Urban Agenda forces us to look beyond our established methods and practices. We will be stretched and challenged more than ever to ensure our human settlements programme delivers not only adequate housing, but also positively impacts on the entire spectrum of development, in addressing poverty and inequality, in ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability, in empowering women, the youth and the vulnerable, in ensuring safety, livability, and inclusion, and in promoting accountability and partnership. Early next year we will call on all of you to once again engage with us under the auspices of the National Forum on Human Settlements and Urban Development. This time we wish to develop a South African implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda, which will spell out the roles and responsibilities of each of us, so that we can again in 2036 be proud participants at Habitat IV, knowing that we fully rose to this global commitment.

I thank you



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## 2016 GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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### **DUMISANI MAKHAYE**

Dumisani Makhaye (1955-2004) was born in Cato Manor. When he was three years old his family was removed under the Group Areas Act, moving to KwaMashu. His participation in the demonstrations and street marches that were part of the 1976 student protests brought him to the attention of the police and in late 1976 he went into exile. He underwent military training in Angola where he came into contact with MK commanders like Joe Modise, Joe Slovo, Chris Hani and Cassius Maaake.

He agreed to serve in the democratic governments of Kwa Zulu-Natal as a member of the Executive Council responsible for Traditional Affairs, Local Government and Housing, so that he could make his contribution to the realisation of the objective and the goal of a better life for all South Africans. He discharged his obligations in this regard with the great determination, skill,

courage, boldness, discipline and enthusiasm with which he engaged the overall historic project of the fundamental transformation of South African.

What drove him to strive for excellence in everything he did was his political commitment to serve the people of South Africa, his commitment to the victory of a democratic revolution that would create the possibility for the realization of the noble goals that our national Constitution prescribes.



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### **ANNA KAJUMULO TIBAIJUKA**

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (born 12 October 1950) is a Tanzanian CCM politician and Member of Parliament for Muleba South constituency. She served as the Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Developments in Tanzania from 2010 to 2014.

She is a former under-secretary-general of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). During her tenure, she was the second highest ranking African woman in the UN after Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, the deputy UN secretary general (who is also a Tanzanian).

Tibaijuka studied agricultural economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala and is fluent in English, Swahili, Swedish and French.

In 1993, Tibaijuka was associate professor of economics at the University of Dar es Salaam for a period of five years. During that period, she was a member of the Tanzanian government delegation to several United Nations summits, including the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul in 1996.

In 1996 at the World Food Summit she was elected coordinator for Eastern Africa in the Network for Food Security, Trade and Sustainable Development (COASAD). Tibaijuka has also served as a board member of UNESCO's International Scientific Advisory Board.