Chairperson

Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Hon. Nocawe Mafu

MECs

Honorable Members of Parliament and all honoured guests

Chairs and CEOs of housing institutions and all senior managers of the Department of Human Settlements led by the Director-General, Mbulelo Tshangana

Allow me to greet you all this afternoon.

We are having this budget vote as we celebrate the delivery of 4.3 million houses and housing opportunities since 1994. It is very clear that the Breaking New Ground policy is bearing fruit.

It is important to note that the government has made significant strides in the area of providing shelter to those in need. But despite this success story a lot more is still being done as we speak in order to alleviate the plight of many who are still without shelter.
YOUTH
Youth build

Youth build programme is a cornerstone of our work. It was created to mark June 16, 1976. This year will be marking 40 years of June 16. Through this programme this department highlighting the fact that those struggles and sacrifices were not in vain. Last year we commemorated June 16 in Ficksburg, Free State where the youth built 100 units. A special house was built for a 103 year old elderly. She has since passed away, may her soul rest in peace.

In the same month, the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Human Settlements MEC implemented a Youth Build Project in Mdantsane and Aliwal North which on completion yielded 100 housing units. These units were constructed by 100 unemployed youths. The beneficiaries of these units were elderly persons. The province has committed to implement youth build annually.

The department launched the 1976 Youth Build Project in Kanana, North West Province which I visited. I was excited to see the houses completed by of a young contractor Mr. Thokozani Littler, who also won the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards last year as the best young contractor of the year.

The purpose of this project was to facilitate the implementation of the Youth Contractor Development Programme.
This a Twinning Programme for youth who implemented successful programmes and emerging youth contractors who were allocated new projects. It is envisaged that 40 units will be ready to be handed over to deserving beneficiaries by the department during this current financial year. This will coincide with the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the June 16 Uprisings.

All provinces are expected to implement the 1976 housing projects by the youth. Beneficiaries of these units should be for the elderly, people with disabilities and child headed households.

**Youth Career Expos in Property and Construction**

The department implemented the Career Expo on Property and Construction in collaboration with the Property Charter Council during October school holidays in the Western Cape and Gauteng Province. This included site orientation by scholars to one of the Departmental Catalytic projects in Fleurhof, Gauteng and Construction Facility in the Western Cape. This Career Expo was launched by Minister of Public Works and Deputy Minister of Human Settlements. The Department will implement the Career Expos annually with the Property Charter Council.

**Youth Brigade Programme**

At the core of South Africa’s transformation agenda is nation building and social cohesion.
The intensification of youth oriented learning and service programmes which are aimed at promoting constructive civic engagement. This including programmes whose objective is to promote leadership, skills development, patriotism, employability opportunities as well as the ability of young people to create their own construction companies and co-operatives.

- During the period 2015/16 year under review, the Department recruited 200 unemployed youths in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. This programme is a joint venture between our Department and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development as well as Department of Defence through the NARYSEC programme. The first phase of this youth programme includes training on leadership and character building. Trainees started in Thaba Nchu, Free State and then proceeded to Saldanha Bay, Western Cape for further training.

The Youth that completed the programme and get placed in a Catalytic project for theoretical and technical skills training by the NHBRC and practical experiential learning and community service is being provided by HDA. The HDA will absorb the youth for different streams of exit opportunities upon completion of the second phase.

- During the month of August 2015, I had the opportunity to visit the youth in Thaba Nchu and observed the caliber and commitment of these young cadres.
I also participated at their Graduation Ceremony in Saldanha Bay in October 2015. Minister officiated the final handover in Nelson Mandela Bay, Port Elizabeth.

I am proud of the initiatives taken by this department on having a Youth Build and Youth Brigade. We thank General Ncutshe for being of great assistance.

Chairperson in celebrating Mandela Day we hosted a youth camp in Qunu in the Eastern Cape. We were warmly received by the Chief in the area. We brought two buses consisting of learners from Dunoon and Atlantis accompanied by their teachers. Some of these youth were from coloured community and they have never been in deep rural areas. The impact of this trip on their performance is amazing. Teachers phoned excited by excellent matric results as learners were highly motivated. We will host more of these in future.

The department participated in the BRICS Youth Summit in Russia in July as per invitation by Presidency. The summit was aimed at mainstreaming youth socio-economic development through exchange and learning programmes between the partner countries. The department will continue to support such programmes and jointly implement the learning and exchange programmes with BRICS partner countries in order to develop a pool of human settlements specialists.
WOMEN

Women development

The Department of Human Settlements’ contribution to the empowerment of women in the South African economy is based on promoting access to economic opportunities for women in the construction industry by capacity development programmes, women building subsidised BNG housing and participating in catalytic projects.

The promotion and facilitating women empowerment and participation in the human settlements value chain is by allocating a 30% target of the Departmental Capital budget for women owned projects.

Women’s Build

This year we are commemorating the 60\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the march to Union Buildings. The department implements the Women’s Build initiative in order to mark this event. This project mobilises women, both entrepreneurs and non-skilled to take part in the national campaign. Women owned construction companies are given an opportunity to build 1956 housing units across all provinces. But I must state categorically clear that not all provinces have heeded to this call. However, we will continue putting pressure.

The 2015 Women’s Build project celebrated during the women’s month was hosted in Limpopo.
The project was led by women contractors under the leadership of SAWIC and the MEC Makurupetje. In the Free State this project was handed over in August 2015 by the President and the Premier. These houses were very big and are of good quality. The project is a result of partnership between the Department of Human Settlements in Free State and the private sector. In North West houses were built by SAWIC. The contractor who built them has since passed away, may her soul rest in peace.

I also had an opportunity to visit housing projects in the Free State Province in Welkom and Sasol. I also handed over houses in Limpopo Province in Tauyatsoala village. I was impressed with the quality. In Gauteng, the province launched the 1956 project in Olivenhoutbosch. Mpumalanga had also done lots of work on women empowerment.

In addition, three Provinces, namely North West, Limpopo and Gauteng signed Memorandum of Understanding with the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) for the joint implementation of 1956 housing project and enterprise development.

I also opened houses in Soshanguve built and supported by amongst others, by women contractors who are mining sandstone (Naturena), supplier of concrete (Mhleni Mhleni) and building using energy efficient methods (i.e. Maowasha, Saint Gobain), Madimong (Youth Owned –Govan Mbeki Best Human Settlements Award Best Youth Contractor), Zora Khan (Woman owned) and Kazia Engineering
(Engineering consulting firm) Youth owned), Andisa Consulting (Youth Owned) and Kopano Creatives (Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Award Best Woman Contractor). This group pledged to work together and to support each other in accelerating housing delivery for the poor.

This year 2016, the Women’s Build will be held in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape and this Build will be preceded by a Human Settlements Women Indaba with a focus on accelerating women empowerment on socio-economic issues and also the fast tracking of delivery of adequate housing.

On the area of women empowerment we have a women enterprise development programme which is run by NHBRC. 100 candidates graduated in August 2015 following training and mentorship by the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS).

There will be another intake this year. This programme is aimed at assisting and supporting 100 existing women-owned construction businesses to build and grow their businesses.

**Women as beneficiaries of housing**

Women are also the biggest beneficiaries of the land and housing opportunities created by the human settlements programmes as recorded by the Housing Subsidy System (HSS).
There are many women contractors who are doing a very good job. In that I would like to congratulate Dr. Thandi Ndlovhu who is one of those leading women contractors for achieving Grade 9 CIDB level. She has been in the industry for more than twenty years and constructing quality houses across Provinces from Cosmo City (Gauteng), Marikana (North West), Kignsburgh (Kwa-Zulu Natal), East London (Eastern Cape), Northern Cape (Kimberley) building both BNG’s and rental stock. Let me also thank many women contractors who have survived in this difficult industry. Keep up the good work.

**ENHANCED PEOPLE’S HOUSING PROCESS – EPHP**

The implementation of EPHP is in line with Government’s vision as well as the National Development Plan, both emphasising the need to adopt a people centred and active citizenry approach in the delivery of services. Through the implementation of the EPHP programme we were able to achieve the following.

- Building cohesive communities that partner with government and other stakeholders.
- People are beginning to take charge of their own development.
- Enhancing local economic development.
- We will continue capacitating communities in this process.
• End result is creating of community based assets.

The delivery of the programme has enabled the department to enter into collaborative partnership with its implementation partners in order to fast track the delivery of houses. Houses built through PHP are bigger and are of good quality. Houses delivered through PHP are never sold.

• **KZN Province** delivered 2,902 PHP units in the Vulindlela Rural housing project. Thirteen (13) Human Settlements Cooperatives were established varying between construction, transport, steel fixing, window and door frames and brick making). Two-thousand and three hundred (2300) temporary jobs have been created. Three (3) material depots have been established that supply the project with all the building material. Women, Youth and the disabled are part of the project.

Through the Department’s partnership with the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), the Vulindlela Cooperatives will be adopted as part of the one of the DSBD National Incubator Programme. Through this Programme the Cooperatives within the project will be exposed to market access and business development to ensure their sustainability.

• **Mpumalanga Province** delivered 2,808 PHP units. Local Contractors were utilised and close to 100 temporary jobs were created.
Material for the project was sourced locally and this impacted positively on the local economic development initiatives.

- **In the Eastern Cape**, 48 PHP units were delivered by the Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP), a South African SDI Alliance. The project was led by Women and local Contractors were utilised. Seventeen (17) jobs were created.

  The finishes were excellent and these included the installation of ceilings and aluminum windows, all units had aprons and gutters. One beneficiary with a talent in gardening and landscaping established food gardens and is landscaping all the houses.

- **The Western Cape Province** delivered 2 333 PHP units. One project that can be highlighted in the Western Cape is the Rondevlei PHP project which was led by the community. The area was initially an informal settlement. This strong community leadership which is dominated by women. This collective’s successfully lobbied government to acquire land, services and delivered a successful PHP project. The project won the best PHP during the 2014/15 Provincial Govan Mbeki Awards. The houses built here are very beautiful and of good quality. I met a 92 year mama Mr. Sarah Sas who is the eldest beneficiary of this project and a first time home owner.
Bardale 1 000 PHP project needs to be mentioned as well. The project was delivered by the local contractors and 100 Youth from the area were recruited as part of the Department's Youth Brigade Programme and assigned to the different Contractors. To date 600 PHP units have been delivered and the outstanding 400 units will be completed by end June 2016.

- **North West Province** delivered 190 PHP units. Ten (10) Human Settlements Cooperatives led by Women were established. Beneficiaries were trained on construction skills and they topped-up the subsidy with their savings and build 50m² units.

In partnership with the Department of Small Business Development, twenty (28) Housing Cooperatives were established in three Provinces and these Cooperatives will also be venturing into the agricultural, poultry, piggery and transport space. The initiative to support the establishment of Cooperatives follows a pronouncement made by Government to promote small business enterprises and create sustainable jobs through Cooperatives. This is in line with our ethos of sustainable livelihood. That as we build houses we must built vibrant communities by promoting local economic development initiatives.

**NATIONAL UPGRADING SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

Our objective as government in the informal settlement upgrading is to improve the quality of life of our people for the better.
We ensure the provision of services to those who live in informal settlements. But also to involve those communities where the upgrading programme is taking place in the decision making processes. People must be empowered to take part in the development of their lives.

What is critical is that informal settlement upgrading programme needs to be supported by all spheres of government. At municipality level it must be part of the IDPs – Integrated Development Plans. In Provinces and National it must be part of the housing plans. It must also feature in the Spatial Development Framework including the Human Settlements Master Plan. The reason is that informal settlements must not be seen as ghettoized squatter camps but must be seen as integral part of the city. They must benefit equally to city’s resources that are given to better accommodated citizens. Everyone has the right of access to the city.

Informal settlement upgrading is taking place in mining towns as well. The department is in partnership with HDA in the mining towns. Marikana is the case in point.

The capacity building programme is under way. The NUSP pilot course provided participants with unique skills set to complement the built environment and other professionals. When I attended the graduation of those who were in training in August 2015. It was clear that these trailblazers are indeed the ambassadors of National Support Programme.
I do believe that Minister also handed out certificates in this programme at Ekurhuleni. I congratulate the managers who have designed and executed this programme.

PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SECTOR

The department has continued to make strides in enhancing capacity initiatives in the sector by negotiating high level strategic partnerships with public universities to support its professionalisation drive.

During the past year, the department has partnered with University of Fort Hare (UFH) which is celebrating its centenary year. The department and UFH jointly launched in 2015 a new degree known as the Bachelor of Social Science in Human Settlements. This degree with its focus on the social facilitation has added a key specialisation to the sector. Since its launch, the UFH has enrolled 100 students.

The department has also partnered with the University of South Africa (UNISA), the largest university on the African continent. This partnership with the leading distance learning institution in South Africa is a game changer for human settlements education. It opens the doors to mass based and affordable education options particularly in human settlements.
From this Year onward UNISA will be offering a Bachelor of Administration in Human Settlements. Now for the first time it is possible for mid-career professionals to take up a 3 year degree via online distance learning.

The other significant step forward has been the completion of the first textbook on human settlements education which was published towards the end of 2015 by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). This textbook makes knowledge of human settlements in the South African context accessible to students of human settlements, practitioners, academic audiences and the general public.

INTERNATIONAL

Chairperson, the meeting of African Union’s Specialised Technical Committee was held in Addis, Ababa in 2015.

South Africa hosted a Habitat III Thematic meeting on Informal Settlements in Pretoria from the 7th – 8th April 2016.

Habitat III Africa Regional meeting took place in February 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria. That meeting came up with a draft Declaration for Africa’s priorities for the New Urban Agenda. We hope that this declaration will be endorsed by the Heads of States when they meet in Kigali, Rwanda in June.

We are looking forward to the Habitat III Conference in Ecuador in October 2016.