



MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Annual Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards

Nomaindiya Mfeketo, Minister of Human Settlements

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

30 November 2018

Programme Directors

Deputy Minister of Human Settlements

Members of the Provincial Executive Councils (MECs),

Chairperson and Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements,

Chairperson and Members of the NCOP Select Committee,

Chairperson, Council members, and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Human Settlements Entities and Stakeholder

Representatives of SALGA

Community and Traditional Leaders

Finalists of all award categories,

Departmental officials,

Honoured guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and welcome to this splendid event. This evening the Annual Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards recognises the achievements, not only of the past year, but includes those who have fought tirelessly for the right to decent housing - some who have made the supreme sacrifice in the struggle for Human Rights.

In general, these award ceremonies, convey our acknowledgement and gratitude to everyone in this sector for their hard and good work. It recognises emerging best practices that motivates fellow colleagues and organisations to strive for excellence, ultimately for the benefit of society as a whole. At the same time these awards also present us with an opportunity to reflect on our progress and challenges, in the quest for relentless improvement.

This evening is the culmination of a process that involved all Provinces across the country, to showcase and demonstrate the excellent work done by their respective departments. Clear criteria were utilised, with special emphasis on the department's key outcomes that – of facilitating the creation Sustainable Human Settlements and improved quality of life for families in our country.

His Excellency President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, has set an ambitious but necessary agenda; of igniting inclusive economic growth, increasing job creation and encouraging investment. Just last month in Kokstad, the President articulated the benefits of investment in housing are at the grassroots level – that is ordinary families.

“In a country where the majority of the population have few, if any, assets, home ownership is a form of radical economic transformation... Home ownership can contribute to improved educational outcomes and reduce household poverty. And, Families are more secure and communities are more stable.”

This is a commitment that one of the founding fathers of our democracy the Honourable Govan Mbeki, or “Oom Gov” as he is affectionately referred to, would identify with.

In his book “The Peasants` Revolt” published in 1964 “Oom Gov” rebukes the folly of apartheid development with reference to the then Transkei Bantustan. This is the apartheid spatial legacy that continues to stifle the development of integrated human settlements today. In postulating alternatives, Oom Gov states, I quote.

“Nothing that the government does can detach the destiny of the Transkei from that of the rest of South Africa.

South Africa is one society; it belongs to all who live in it and who have contributed brawn and brains, muscle and capital to its development.”

Ladies and gentlemen these awards must accept that housing is much more than just bricks and mortar: –

- it is a human right that provides security and comfort,
- it is a social asset that allows families and communities to achieve their full potential;
- its an economic asset that people can leverage for productive investment, and
- It’s a structural asset that increases physical well-being of people.

The Human Settlements sector as a whole, is grappling with significant challenges in the current socio-economic context. These include the ever increasing demand for housing, constraints on government budget, the need to address policy and capacity gaps, as well as bearish market conditions particularly on affordability.

The call on the stakeholders in this sector is to be more innovative and strive harder to create an enabling and vibrant climate that increases investment and encourages participation at all levels. In the “*Golden Era of Human Settlement Expansion*” we must create a “festival of sustainable human settlements delivery”. We have a duty as men and women, as senior citizens and youth, as rural and urban dwellers, to make this sector the most exciting sector in the country. This is our clarion call in the true spirit of *Vukuzenzele, Thuma Mina!*

The Govan Mbeki awards consists of two stages. The provincial winners that have excelled in each of the Key Performance Areas outlined in the Govan Mbeki Awards are nominated to proceed to participate in the national competition. The Provincial ceremonies, assessments and adjudication process for 2018 awards were successfully implemented in eight provinces during the months of August to September 2018.

At the national level, the Provincial nominees were subjected to a further assessment process where information was verified, and shortlisted projects sites were visited in

the months of October 2018. In addition, the finalists went through the adjudication process and three finalists were selected in each category. These process were subjected to both internal and external audits by Nexia SAB&T to ensure the credibility of the processes.

This year we are witnessing awards given in 17 categories, including the two important categories of Metropolitan Municipality and Province of the year. Unfortunately, this year there were no entrants for the Institutional and farm worker project categories. The question is – how do we correct this anomaly in order to ensure inclusivity and parity in our sector.

Four years ago an additional category, the Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of service excellence and noteworthy contributions was introduced, and there are three recipients tonight. These extraordinary people, have not only made huge and supreme sacrifices, their tireless selfless contributions have inspired many people across the country and sets an example to be emulated by generations to come.

They include:

Mama Nontsikelo Albertina Sisulu – “A woman of fortitude” in recognition of her courage, discipline, integrity and love for her country.

In 2018 marks the centenary of the life ma Albertina Sisulu’s life and legacy. Known as a fearless champion of democracy and human rights, the extraordinary Ma Sisulu’s dedicated her life to her country and its people. Its not only her resilience against the evil state, but the humanely motherly role she played during the darkest hours of apartheid that comforted leaders and ordinary people alike. These values I will continue to hold in awe. I trust that we can all emulate her leadership characteristics, commitment and values. Malibongwe! Igama Lamakhosikazi!

Our martyrs: popularly known as The Cradock Four

This Award is posthumously and deservedly granted in honour of Four anti-apartheid activists from Cradock, a small rural Karoo town of the Eastern Cape. As part of a collective leadership these leaders of CRADORA, CRADOYA and educator formations operated at local levels fighting for basic services such as housing, water and sanitation. They were prominently respected for their courage and militant

leadership in taking up the struggles of ordinary people, residents and youth for a better life. In no particular order, here I speak of:

- Matthew Goniwe
- Fort Calata
- Sparrow Mkhonto, and
- Sicelo Mhlauli.

On 27 June 1985, the four activists from Cradock were intercepted at a roadblock, abducted, cruelly killed and their bodies were burnt by the apartheid police at Bluewater Bay outside Port Elizabeth.

The Pepco Three – as these gallant fighter are affectionately known.

This Award is posthumously and deservedly granted in honour of these selfless community leaders of Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO), whose struggles for Human Rights include, the civic struggles of ordinary people. Again in no particular order;

- Qaqawuli Godolozzi
- Siphso Samuel Charles Hashe
- Twasile Champion Galela

On 8 May 1985 Galela, Hashe and Godolozzi were abducted and killed by the police. Their remains were only discovered 23 years later by the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) missing person's task team at a farm outside Cradock.

To the truly worthy "lifetime award" winners, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the families of these remarkable souls. Thank you for sharing your loved ones with us - the country and the world. We are forever indebted to you.

In reflecting on these awards, ladies and gentlemen, I must confess my professional dilemma and intellectual pain. Despite the noteworthy efforts and pockets of excellence, the sector has a whole has significant challenges. In short the best in some categories, have not achieved the desirable benchmarks. The performance in the sector is far from desired. **We can and we must** do more to lift the overall performance of the sector, both in quality and quantity. More importantly this evening

we must all renew our commitment to “batho pele” and mainstream the culture of excellence.

The quote from H Jackson Brown Jr is apt here: ***“Don’t work for recognition, but do work worthy of recognition.”***

Programme Director, let me conclude by thanking everyone that has worked tirelessly to make this event successful a successful one. Best wishes to all the nominees for their hard work and endeavour for excellence.

Thank you and good luck.

30 November 2018

Honourable Minister – Nomaindiya Mfeketo

Minister of Human Settlements