



Private Bag x645 Pretoria Tel (012) 421 1610 Fax (012) 341 0404 Private Bag x9029 Cape Town 8000 Tel (021) 466 7600 Fax (021) 461 3695

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, HON  
THEMBI SIMELANE AT THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDERS'  
REGISTRATION COUNCIL (NHBRC) YOUTH BUILD GRADUATION CEREMONY  
12 DECEMBER  
RANDFONTEIN, GAUTENG PROVINCE.**

Programme Directors, NHBRC Board Chairperson, Ms Noxolo Kiviet &  
Tjeka Training Center CEO, Mr. Frans Toua  
Executive Mayor, Cllr William Matjeke  
Cllr Amelia Gama  
Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Ms. Tasneem Motara  
Executive Manager, Mr. Sandile Mbujwa  
Officials from the National, Province and Randwest Municipality  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

Allow me to begin by congratulating our YouthBuild Graduates for their exceptional dedication and resilience. Your achievement today is not merely a personal milestone; it is a meaningful contribution to the future of South Africa's Human Settlements sector.

The NHBRC exists to protect the housing consumer and to uphold construction quality across the country. A key part of this mission is training and skills development. Last year alone, the NHBRC trained **1,682** individuals, including emerging homebuilders, military veterans, youth, women, technical professionals, and persons with disabilities.

This year, that number has already grown to **1,996**, with youth accounting for close to 700 beneficiaries. Young people continue to be at the centre of our capacity-building efforts, as they should be.

The Bricklaying Skills Programme represents one of the most essential trades in our sector. Brickwork is often the first visible indicator of a home's structural integrity. I am therefore immensely proud that you achieved an outstanding **95% performance rate**.

Even more encouraging is that your training is accredited at NQF Level 3, ensuring that your skills are recognised, respected, and portable both within South Africa and beyond.

I wish I could personally thank the parents and guardians who supported you. Many of you have overcome significant challenges, and yet today you stand tall. We honour your perseverance.

My appreciation goes to a young developer at the Mega West Catalytic Project at Toekomsrus whom we have entrusted with the responsibility to assist us in restoring the dignity of our people. I witnessed firsthand his valuable contribution to housing the nation.

I had requested that you be afforded a one-year learning opportunity, and I am pleased that the NYDA has added a further six-month community service programme. I am encouraged that this service will include housing consumer education.

Young people, I urge you to help us convey a message to our communities that a house is an asset which must be valued and handed down to generations to come. Through the principle of “*each one, teach one*”, let us empower communities to value and protect government assets.

I know that some of you wish to begin working immediately due to difficult circumstances at home. But your results show immense academic potential. As President Nelson Mandela reminded us, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

The NHBRC’s three-year Artisan Development Programme, with a stipend, provides a clear pathway to a formal qualification, employment, and long-term career success. Let us make full use of this opportunity. When our struggle heroes declared in the Freedom Charter that “the doors of learning and culture shall be opened”, they envisioned moments like this, moments where young people step confidently into the future. Today, you are walking through those doors.

To our graduates: your journey does not end here. It begins here. We believe in you; your communities need you. Your future rests on the strong foundation you have laid through hard work, discipline and commitment.

I congratulate you once again and wish you every success in your academic, professional and personal endeavours.

**I thank you.**