



**MINISTRY  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 5798 (979) (NA)**

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**QUESTION:**

**Mr C J Poole (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

In light of the Syferfontein Catalytic Housing Project in George, launched in September last year that has shown great innovation, as working with the Western Cape proved that significant bottlenecks were resolved, how does her department intend to remove the significant bottlenecks that affect the handing over of title deeds and houses? **NO6461E**

**REPLY:**

The handover of 874 housing units and 860 title deeds in Syferfontein, George, on 5 September 2025, demonstrates that when provinces and municipalities implement housing projects sequentially and in accordance with approved implementation guidelines, it is both possible and desirable to hand over a house together with its title deed.

Since the start of my term of office in the Human Settlements portfolio, I have consistently urged implementing agents, provinces and municipalities, to finalise all outstanding matters, including planning and services, related to old or incomplete projects.

To address broader systemic bottlenecks, the Department is collaborating with Operation Vulindlela, as directed by Cabinet, to eradicate the backlog of 80,000 title deeds during the current Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) period. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Operational Plan have been drafted and will be presented to the National Treasury to secure funding through the October 2025 budget adjustment process.

In addition, the Ministry of Human Settlements has held bilateral engagements with the Ministries of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to explore ways of waiving certain requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 107 of 1998 and the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) 16 of 2013 for townships developed prior to their enactment. A technical team is currently collecting data on all affected areas nationwide, after which the relevant Ministries will process applications for each area.

Lastly, the Department intends to amend Section 10A of the Housing Act 107 of 1997, in line with the approved White Paper on Human Settlements, to curb the premature and illegal sale of state-subsidised houses.