

department of human settlements  
govan mbeki awards

2014



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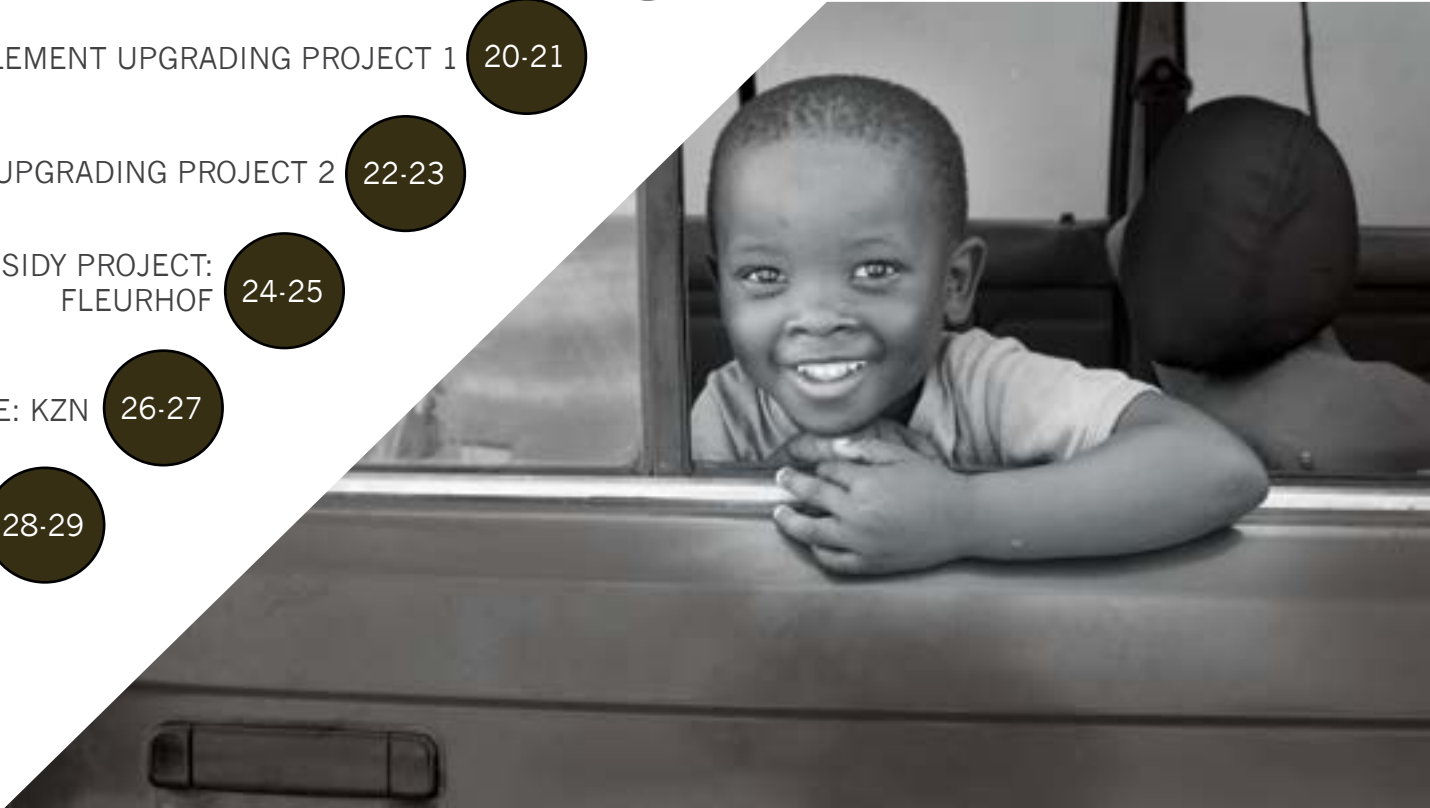
GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS

2014



# CONTENTS

PATRICK MAGEBHULA HUNSLEY TRIBUTE	4-5
JOE SLOVO TRIBUTE	6-7
MINISTER'S FOREWORD	8-11
DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE	12-13
DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INTRODUCTION	14-17
GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS CATEGORIES	18-19
BEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING PROJECT 1	20-21
BEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING PROJECT 2	22-23
BEST FINANCE LINKED INDIVIDUAL SUBSIDY PROJECT: FLEURHOF	24-25
BEST PROVINCE: KZN	26-27
BEST SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT: WALMER LINK	28-29
BEST WOMAN CONTRACTOR 1: SUN SUCCESS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CC	30-31



BEST WOMAN CONTRACTOR 2: MASIQHAME TRADING 28CC 32-33

BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY: POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY 34-35

BEST PRIORITY PROJECT: CORNUBIA 36-37

BEST CONTRACTOR IN THE NON-SUBSIDY MARKET: MOTHEO CONSTRUCTION 38-39

BEST COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 1: MASIMONG 4 40-41

BEST COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 2: SESHEGO 42-43

BEST ENHANCED PEOPLES' HOUSING PROCESS: NAMIBIA STOP 8 44-45

BEST RURAL PROJECT: VULINDLELA RURAL PROJECT 46-47

BEST INSTITUTION: RHLF 48-49

BEST BANKING INSTITUTION: STANDARD BANK 50-51

BEST SPONSOR: GROUP FIVE 52-53

55 PRODUCTION TEAM



# Patrick Magebhula Hunsley



**P**atrick Magebhula Hunsley was a comrade and a close friend of both the people and the democratic government. He was committed to serving the poor selflessly and sacrificed his time and energy striving to improve their living conditions.

A seasoned negotiator who refused all proposed offers that meant turning his back on his people. He became chairman of the Informal Settlement Network in 2008 and

he championed the struggle against poverty and the exclusion of the indigent. He became the mouthpiece of the poor and forged a progressive partnership with government to ensure the plight of the urban poor were heard.

His wonderful sense of humour is what won the people's hearts and everyone saw a genuine leader in him. Patrick will be missed by many South Africans, especially shack dwellers who are still trying to find stability in the fringes of society.

This icon of the poor met his end while still working towards ensuring people living

in informal settlements across the country were provided with proper housing in areas closer to points of business and employment.

He was an articulate speaker who was invited to numerous international conferences including the World Urban Forum 7.

He was selected as part of a special team of advisors on the Ministerial Sanitation Task Team by former Minister of Human Settlements Tokyo Sexwale.



*The*  
**HOUSING  
ACCORD**

DIE BEHUISINGSOOREENKOMS  
ISIVUMELWANO NGEZINDLU  
TUMELELANG YA DINTLO

HOUSING THE NATION  
BEHUISING VIR ALMAL  
UKUSIZA UMPHAKATHI NGEZINDLU  
GO THUSA BATHO GO HWETSA DINTLO

THE HOUSING ACCORD

**Declaration of Commitment**

The goal is to see housing's share of the total state budget increased to five percent within  
decade, leading delivery to a sustainable level in a period of 20-30 years, not across  
a 100-year period. This is to be done in such a way that the government of National unity's impact  
of the welfare budget within five years.

Government agrees to the establishment of viable, socially and economically integrated  
communities which are intended to allow effective intervention across all economic, regulatory,  
health, education, and social assistance and welfare which South Africa's people will  
have access to a programmatic solution:

- a programmatic, residential, structure with access to water, sewerage services and providing  
adequate protection against fire, crime, and
- provide water, adequate energy facilities, including waste disposal and business clusters  
by each.

In order to meet the housing challenge, government also to establish a sustainable housing  
sector which will eventually enable all South Africans to attain housing within a safe and  
healthy environment and to share with communities in a manner which meets their capacity  
to be successful, democratic, democratic and integrated society.

 Joe Slovo National Government	 David Bhebe International University	 J.P. Louwrens Wolkebaan Wolkebaan	 Andre Louwrens Wolkebaan Wolkebaan
 Linda Nkomo UNISA	 Paul Mkhondo Mkhondo	 Mkhondo Mkhondo Mkhondo	 Tom Mkhondo Mkhondo
 Dennis Coetzee Financial Bank	 Van Mkhondo Mkhondo	 Mkhondo Mkhondo Mkhondo	 Mkhondo Mkhondo Mkhondo

Signed at  
Cape Town on the  
27 October 1994

# Joe Slovo



Joe Slovo, democratic South Africa's first Minister of Housing, stayed in office for less than a year, but left an indelible mark. He passed away on 6 January 1995, succumbing to bone marrow cancer. But it was the former struggle veteran and South African Communist Party leader who laid the foundations for South Africa's democratic housing policies for the years to come.

Slovo's major success as Minister of Housing is undoubtedly the signing of the historic Botshabelo Accord in October 1994. Despite his deteriorating health, he managed to bring together various stakeholders and set about transforming apartheid's de-meaning and exclusionary housing politics.

This was followed by his presentation of the Housing White Paper to Parliament. It became a policy framework inclusive of the needs of all citizens, and, gave birth to the slogan 'Housing the Nation'.

Through the White Paper, he solicited partnerships between various tiers of government to start a process that kept evolving over the years to continue turning dreams into reality. He was a beacon of hope to the poor, that the people would name almost every new informal settlement after him.

Today, millions of South Africans enjoy their new houses knowing that after a long day, they can retreat to a place they proudly call home, and this because of his visionary leadership.

At the funeral of Joe Slovo on 15 January

1995 in Johannesburg, former President Nelson Mandela paid tribute to him and said, "Joe Slovo was one of those who taught us that individuals do not make history. Yet, in each generation there are a few individuals who are endowed with the acumen and personal bearing which enable them to direct the course of events. Comrade Joe Slovo, Isithwalandwe-Seaparankoe, belonged in that category. In that sense he was a rare species, an institution."

In Joe Slovo – after 20 years of democracy and freedom – the country is not just celebrating the life of a hero of the struggle, but a luminary who touched the hearts of millions and who made an indelible mark in the history of South Africa.

## Let's cut the waste, strive for quality and build decent human settlements

**T**he Govan Mbeki Awards are a happy event of a gathering of people whose interest it is to tirelessly serve South Africa, to ensure that each and every one of her citizens lives in security and comfort. It is a gathering of people whose interest is to ensure that one day, all citizens will have a secure home, to call their own, surrounded by all the amenities that are necessary for life in a middle income economy such as ours, where every child can go to an integrated school, within five kilometres of their home. And every adult person has a clinic and every community is serviced by a highly mobile, agile police service, where there are amenities for our youth to keep them occupied, where every citizen understands it is their responsibility to report crime, to protect their children and be responsible to keep a clean environment.

Where we give as government, citizens must understand the corollary is responsibility.

This, might not happen during our tenure at Human Settlements, but I am certain that we are all committed to ensure that we lay the foundation that one day, those who come after us will have the humility to say “those people who strove to make a better life for us.”

So today, we celebrate some of those people and we rejoice with them in their success and hope it encourages them to do even better. Our intention with the Awards this year was to confer a special Lifetime Award to Mrs Epainette Mbeki for her commitment to her community and her support of our work. We thought this would be fitting for a woman whose entire life was dedicated to fighting for our democracy and a better life for all. Unfortunately we would be denied that opportunity to thank her in her lifetime.

We want to reconfirm that we remain firmly in her footsteps and those of her late husband Oom Govan Mbeki, both of whom were champions who served the interest of their people until their last day came. Our thanks go to the Mbeki family who allowed us when we started with these Awards process in 2006, to name the event after an outstanding stalwart - wOom Gov. We enjoyed total support from the late MaMbeki and we are grateful for that.



Minister of Human Settlements  
Lindiwe Sisulu

We also want to recognise an outstanding, humble man who helped us shape our policies and understand how people who live in slum conditions are not victims, that they have the power, together with our support, to take themselves out of their poverty. His name is Patrick Hunsley Magebhula. He passed away on 4 of August 2014. It is a sad loss for us. We honour him as an internationally recognised champion and pioneer of the empowerment of the poor and acknowledge his outstanding contribution. We and his broader family of the Federation of Urban Poor and Slum Dwellers International will have to double our collective effort to further his work to ensure that his life passion was not in vain.

I further want to take the opportunity to recognise the ground-breakers who have led and given direction to the portfolio we now call Human Settlements. In particular, our first Minister of Housing, Joe Slovo, who conceptualised and launched the Botshabelo Accord which became a historic agreement by all stakeholders, including trade unions, business and communities, laying a basis for us to understand our obligations towards the reconstruction of our country after the ravages of apartheid. I want to acknowledge Minister Slovo's Director-General, Billy Cobbett. A constant compass for us and a supporter of our initiatives and work.

The MECs for Human Settlements and I have committed ourselves to build 1 million houses and create 500 000 housing opportunities in the next five years. This is a very tough call, but we are up to it. Our departments and entities are reshaping, understanding that we are in the fifth gear.

Beyond our interaction today, I hope I will see all of you at the Human Settlements Indaba, which will bring together all our stakeholders and partners to thrash out our challenges, the solutions to our challenges and recommit ourselves.

Through the Indaba, we hope we will be able to get all our stakeholders to recommit to the Social Contract which we had signed in 2005. Recommitment to the Social Contract is essential, because it is when we work together in a partnership as Government, Business, the Banking sector, Labour and Communities, that we can move South Africa forward.

During the month of August we celebrate women and recognise the women of the country and especially the women in human settlements and construction.

When they build, they build with the same meticulous care with which they raise a child. They need our support, because the world is far from being fair to women.

We spent R2 billion on rectifying houses. I don't know how we came to this unacceptable situation, but it is my intention to scrap this programme and ensure that the onus is on each and every contractor to build properly or return to repair. This will allow us to return these resources to people who have been waiting for houses. The rectification programme was only meant to cover houses that were built before the NHBRC was established. For all of us sitting here and those taking part in any contract, please know that you may not continue without the required certificates from the NHBRC. Let us cut the waste. This makes occasions like this so important to emphasise that qual-

ity leads to achievements and implore all of you to build houses like you are building your own or better still, build them like women.

Next year we will have Awards that are more reflective of Human Settlements as opposed to merely building houses. So that those who install our electrical fittings, those who build our community halls, those who establish our vegetable gardens, all who make our human settlements what they are, are also recognised. We should be able to acknowledge the person who installed electrical fittings on the N2 Gateway Project in the same way as the contractor of Cornubia. We must live out our mandate to build human settlements and not houses. The contractor who builds the best roads in our human settlements is as important as the contractor who built Cosmo City, because all of us here will have put something into making human settlements a better place for our people, and therefore all of us who do, need to be responsible for the efforts we put in. And more importantly, feel appreciated and acknowledged for that.

*When they build, they build with the same meticulous care with which they raise a child. And I would still say this, even if I was not a woman myself. They need our support, because the world is far from fair for women.*



# Our good work signals respect for heroes like Oom Gov

**T**he Govan Mbeki Awards are the highlights of all the strides made by our Government and the Department of Human Settlements since our country became a democracy in 1994.

These Awards first started as the Housing Awards under the auspices of the then Department of Housing.

They were renamed in 2006 after the late stalwart of the African National Congress, Govan Mbeki, an anti-apartheid fighter of note who became one of the bravest warriors in our struggle for freedom and democracy.

Oom Gov as he was affectionately known, was not only one of the Rivonia trialists who spent many years in jail. He was also the Member of Parliament as a member of the Senate.

It was therefore fitting to name the Awards after a man of his calibre because his heart, mind, interests and his entire life was devoted to the improvement and development of all South Africans.

Oom Gov was an educator who knew that the future of the South Africa he yearned for, would require activists and citizens who possessed skills and expertise required for building a better country.

He was a publicist, always keen to share information using a number of newspapers and publications that he ran in various areas especially in the Eastern Cape where he operated.

Govan Mbeki was an intellectual who never hesitated to give the apartheid government a piece of his mind about the poor living conditions, which amongst others, included the prevalent lack of access to decent housing.

He distinguished himself as the true leader of our people and fought with great determination until he realised his dream for a free and democratic society that we now live in and enjoy today.

These Awards are therefore presented to honour him and give gratitude to many South Africans, who work tirelessly every day to ensure that our people enjoy the better life for all that Govan Mbeki fought so hard for.

His spirit remains in our hearts, we commit ourselves to work hard, until we are certain that we have re-shaped South Africa into the country that gallant fighters like Oom Gov, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu,

OR Tambo, Lillian Ngoyi and many others sacrificed lives and limbs to create.

With these Awards, we aim to promote excellence, best practices and instill a healthy competition among all Departments of Human Settlements in Provinces and Municipalities to always strive for the creation of better human settlements and make South

Africa a better country than that which we inherited in 1994.

We also take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge all our stakeholders in all sectors who are making valuable contributions through resources to help us realise the goal of providing decent housing, security of tenure to all our people.



Deputy Minister of Human Settlements  
Zou Kota-Fredericks

# DIRECTOR- GENERAL'S INTRODUCTION



**T**he Govan Mbeki Awards is a prestigious ceremony hosted in all provinces and nationally by the Department of Human Settlements. The aim is to promote best practices and a healthy competition among all the stakeholders in the human settlements sector. They are now held annually under the auspices of the Department of Human Settlements.

This year's Awards marked the 20 years of freedom and democracy to demonstrate and showcase excellence over the past two decades, best practice and healthy competition amongst provinces in their quest to improve the quality of lives for millions of South Africans.

The 20 years of freedom is a significant milestone and the Department of Human Settlements in partnership with its institutions encouraged all stakeholders at Provincial and National levels to participate in the Govan Mbeki Awards 2014.



Director-General of the Department of Human Settlements, Thabane Zulu



## THE AWARDS PROCESS

The Govan Mbeki Awards consists of 15 competing categories, there are two stages of the competition – a provincial stage and a national stage. During the provincial stage, only categories mentioned under Provincial Human Settlements participate. During the provincial competition the provinces are expected to nominate applicants that have excelled in each of the Key Performance Areas (KPA) to compete nationally for this category.

The overall winners of each category in the provincial competition proceed to participate in the national competition. During the national stage all categories of applicants participate and winners are chosen for each category. Provincial Departments qualify automatically to participate at a national level.

Five nominees also receive MEC awards at provincial level and at national level five nominees also receive Minister's awards. The awardees are nominated according to the set criteria.

In all previous years, the best performers were recognised and awarded in a form of a certificate, a prestigious trophy and financial reward.

Therefore, it is in this environment that the life changing impact made on the lives of poor people are made to manifest for a meaningful recognition. The Awards bring out these achievements in a holistic manner that highlights the manner in which the millions of poor people have received provision of sustainable human settlements and the betterment of livelihoods, development of communities and job creation opportunities.

The Awards are also meant to recognise and honour the role players in the housing value chain, such as developers, building contractors, the banking sector, community-based organisations, the mining sector, building materials suppliers, and professional associations that have committed to partner with Government to build sustainable human settlements.

## THE LEGACY

It is fitting to name the Awards after a man whose main interest at heart was for the improvement and development of the lives of other people. Govan Mbeki, fondly known as "Oom Gov" was a warrior and revolutionary, an educator, a publicist, an organiser and leader of our people over many decades, who was tenaciously fighting this good cause.

He had unique qualities of selflessness and abhorred the oppression and exploitation that were prevalent like a scourge and affecting the millions of people in South Africa.

Govan Mbeki was popularly known as 'a man of the people' because of his practical revolutionary approach which permeated the small peasant communities. He encouraged communities to form simple co-operatives, to accumulate and maximise on their resources and labour, so as to improve production.

This positive energy and inspiration that Govan Mbeki invested in the people of South Africa during the struggle was of an immortal nature; hence these awards are aimed at portraying this immortality, because the efforts of Human Settlements leave an indelible mark in the lives of the poor and marginalised people of South Africa.

# GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS WINNERS

## Congratulations

### LIFE TIME ACHIEVER AWARDS

- Patrick Magebhula Hunsley
- Joe Slovo Family

### BEST METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY OF THE YEAR

- Tshwane Municipality, Gauteng

### BEST PROVINCE OF THE YEAR

- KwaZulu-Natal

### BEST PRIORITY PROJECT

- Cornubia, KwaZulu-Natal

### BEST RURAL PROJECT

- Vulindlela, KwaZulu-Natal

### BEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- Second Creek, Eastern Cape
- Thembaletu, Western Cape

### BEST SOCIAL HOUSING

- Walmer Link, Eastern Cape

### BEST COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS PROJECTS

- Seshego, Limpopo
- Masimong, Free State

### BEST ENHANCED PEOPLE'S HOUSING PROCESS

- Namibia Stop 8, Kwa Zulu-Natal

### BEST FINANCED LINKED INDIVIDUAL SUBSIDY PROJECT

- Fleurhof, Gauteng

### BEST WOMAN CONTRACTOR

- Masiqhame Trading 28cc, Western Cape
- Sun Success Construction Projects, North West

### BEST NON-SUBSIDY PROJECT

- Motheo Group, Gauteng

**BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY LEVEL 1 - CATEGORY B**

- Polokwane, Limpopo

**BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY LEVEL 2 - CATEGORY A**

- City of Johannesburg, Gauteng

**BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY LEVEL 2 - CATEGORY B**

- Steve Tshwete, Mpumalanga

**BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY LEVEL 2 - CATEGORY C**

- Francis Baard, Northern Cape

**BEST INSTITUTIONS**

- Rural Housing Loan Fund

**BANKING INSTITUTIONS**

- Standard Bank

**SPONSORS**

- Group Five

**SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS FROM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**

- Mcetwa Kwazalela, Eastern Cape



# BEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING PROJECT 1: SECOND CREEK

STORY BY BOTSHELO SELOGILWE





**B**uilding a house on an old dump site land demands time as more concrete sand is needed to build a firm foundation. It takes proper planning and managing the budget carefully as the cost for building material can go higher and affect the whole project.

This was a challenge that Buffalo City Municipality in the Eastern Cape consistently examined through out the Second Creek low cost housing project.

However the goal of giving those who occupied an informal dwelling on a waste disposal site proved to be bigger than the challenge itself.

Having started in February 2013, the project which consists of 265 housing units, has earned the recognition of being the Best Informal Settlement Upgrading project during the 2014 Govan Mbeki Awards.

“Registering the beneficiaries for this project proved to be a challenge as some of the residents did not have identity documents. Through working together with the department of Home Affairs, we were able to assist residents with proper documents,” said Fezile Eugene Flatela Representative from Buffalo Municipality.

In 2009 Buffalo City Municipality proposed that Second Creek residents should get proper houses to improve their living conditions.

Buffalo City Municipality with a joint effort from various stakeholders and the Provincial Department of Human Settlements the recipients have received their keys for their new homes.

This project is an in-situ upgrading project as opposed to relocation. The closing down of industries caused residents of Second Creek to lose their jobs and most of them were migrant workers. They started searching for food and sellable goods from the Second Creek landfill site. Later they started living close to the disposal site, and this is how 265 shacks were formed.

The project is close to the harbour and central business area which provide employment opportunities to the many residents who have been living in the area for over 30 years.

The Department of Social Development came on board and assisted the Second Creek housing development with an Early Childhood Development Centre which relies on donations from the public and non-governmental organisations and voluntary teachers to operate.

# BEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING PROJECT 2: THEMBALETHU

An informal settlement is a housing group created unofficially. These areas are usually referred to as squatter camps, informal or spontaneous informal and shanty towns. With the lack of houses in the country and the increasing number of the population, the numbers of housing units grow rapidly on a daily basis. The South African government is constitutionally obliged to upgrade these areas by building proper houses, provide sanitation, safe drinking water, electricity, hygienic streets or other basic human necessities.

Thembaletu in George, Western Cape won the best Informal Settlements Upgrade in the Govan Mbeki Awards 2014. This settlement was developed in the late 1990s in a township close to George. It has approximately 5000 houses of which the allocation of subsidy house focused on informal settlement dwellers in Thembaletu. Other beneficiaries moved from the Eastern Cape and other rural areas in the Western Cape to try and find work in George or the surrounding areas.

“This is a multi-year upgrading intervention and support programme of the municipality in collaboration with the respective settlement communities and it is most befitting that this recognition and honour come in the year of celebrations for 20 years of freedom,” said Phila Mayisela,

Regional Director in Eden & Central Karoo Municipality.

There are approximately 61 informal settlements in the George area and the settlement ages vary from 2-to-25 years, basic services have been provided on either shared basis (1 toilet per 5 families), chemical toilets or VIP’s to most of the settlements. Some informal settlements are on privately owned land and servicing these families has been challenging as the financial regulation prohibits government from doing work on privately owned land. Discussions are however under way to find a workable solution of servicing the communities.

“George Municipality highly appreciates the recognition expressed in the form of the Govan Mbeki Award in the category Best Informal Settlement Upgrade Project for 2014. This is highly entitled to the fact that the municipality is very passionate and highly committed in its endeavours to plan and implement interventions to meet the needs of the homeless households in informal settlement like those in Thembaletu. To this end, the progress made in the project is very encouraging for both the municipality and the community. We have a long way to go, but the progress that we have made is remarkable,” concluded Mayisela.

STORY BY THOBEKA SHANGASE

*There are approximately 61 informal settlements in the George area and the settlement ages vary from 2-to-25 years.*



# BEST FINANCE LINKED INDIVIDUAL SUBSIDY PROJECT: FLEURHOF

STORY BY YAMKELA MXAKA





During the 2013 annual Govan Mbeki Awards, Fleurhof, one of Gauteng's largest integrated housing project won the Best Social Housing Project award and they did wonders for the province again during the 2014 Govan Mbeki Awards as they were crowned the Best Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Project Award, rising above the Cosmo City Project and Lehae Project also from Gauteng.

The Fleurhof Project is a R2,8 billion residential real estate development located near the historically and politically significant township of Soweto in Johannesburg. Its development started in 2009. The overall plan is to include more than 8 000 low and middle income housing units, seven nursery schools, five schools, numerous community gardens and play areas, four business centers, and five religious sites.

"Our aim is to build affordable houses for people with all the amenities needed in a community but most importantly we want to change the way communities in the region are built and create employment for local workers, both the skilled and unskilled workers from previously disadvantaged backgrounds," explained Wikus Ladegen the Fleurhof Finance Director.

The project is a joint venture between International Housing Solutions (IHS), a private equity manager focused on affordable housing projects and Calgro M3, a listed development company specialising in mixed-income residential construction. Under this partnership, IHS has provided the majority of the

equity financing and performs the financial structuring, while Calgro M3 manages and oversees the project. Other partners include the City of Johannesburg, Gauteng Provincial Government, Inkanyeke projects and National Housing Finance Corporation by providing FLISP to qualifying beneficiaries.

There are 9 600 units of Fleurhof Ext 2 situated next to the existing Ext 1 residential township with various types of residential units and forms of tenure that have specific economic target markets. The houses are affordable and therefore enable first time home ownership opportunities to millions of South Africans and legal permanent residents earning between R3 501 and R15 000 per month. Selling prices range from R260 000 to R400 000. To date 21 FLISP beneficiaries have been assisted.

"This award is very important to us and we take it as a form of encouragement and motivation to keep on building and creating affordable houses for the bulk of South African citizens and address the segment of the country's housing market in most need of investment," concluded Ladegen.

Currently the project team is investigating various potential green initiatives to assess the viability of certain energy saving technologies such as solar water heaters, heat pumps, and improved insulation for the various types of housing units. They are also looking at residential recycling projects, food gardening and urban potential initiatives which will also help reduce electricity demand by the development and make the township socially and visually more attractive.

# BEST PROVINCE: KZN

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements won seven Govan Mbeki Awards ultimately scooping the Best Provincial Department category.

The Provincial Department managed to deliver 31 941 housing opportunities during the last financial year covering a variety of tenure options, unsurprisingly that on the night of the awards' ceremony the Department produced four runners up and three winners, Vulindlela and Namibia Stop 8 projects in the Best Rural Project and Best Enhanced People's Housing Process categories respectively including winner of the Best Priority Project award and the R25 billion Cornubia Housing Project in Durban.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay thanked everyone who contributed to the province's magnificent performance.

"This Award is for contractors, land surveyors, officials, ordinary builders, financiers, suppliers, beneficiaries and everyone who has made this possible."

"The province has been very consultative in its approach to the human settlements delivery as a whole and this has helped us to carefully deal with all aspects involved, this award (Best Provincial Department) is as result of us working together," added Pillay.

Contestants in the Best Provincial Department category were assessed on a number of aspects including, the increased number of households with access to quality accommodation, basic services and secure tenure, improved access to social services and economic opportunities within the reasonable distance, Increased access to Private Finance for Housing Development and the efficient utilisation of land for human settlements development.

The Provincial Business Plans and the Provincial Annual Performance Reports were also used to verify information.

"To achieve this recognition, we have used our budget of more than R3 billion allocated to us for the 2013/14 financial year, our careful planning for different programmes in different places across the province has made us to be the number one province," said Pillay.

KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements is one of the departments which showed consistency in terms of performance in all programmes. The quality of the houses they build is always commendable despite the challenges they experience, for instance, bad terrain and unfavorable climate conditions, like flooding. The Provincial reports indicate that in most cases there is an alignment between the financial and non-financial performance.



# BEST SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT: WALMER LINK

When the Department of Human Settlements Housing policy changed in terms of subsidy finance, it opened an opportunity for the department and its partners to pilot a new model in housing delivery. The birth of Fleurhof in Gauteng, Stueenberg in the Western Cape and Walmer Link in the Eastern Cape was realised. This housing policy change aimed solely at developing a government programme that will provide assistance to households who are unable to independently access mortgage finance to acquire a residential property.

Port Elizabeth's first social housing greenfields project at Walmer Link was identified as the best social housing project in the country during the Govan Mbeki Awards 2014.

Walmer Link, has the potential to unite people from different living backgrounds and conditions. Located between the existing township of Walmer and upmarket part of Walmer in Port Elizabeth, the project reflects the dynamic demographic profile on the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality. Beneficiaries enjoy living together as mixed races within the environment that promotes and encourage social cohesion.

Lance Del Monte, CEO of the Home Market, (Project Developers) said, "I am absolutely thrilled to have been part of this wonderful ground breaking project and I would like to thank the Department for this prestigious Award. In celebrating the progress freedom has brought in our country, the project embraced freedom from as early as the construction phase by offering employment and business opportunities to the people around the area. The use of labour, small medium micro enterprises contractors and suppliers was maximised. The project contributes to local economic development in the form of a cafeteria that is owned by a local small business and runs within the social housing estate," he said.

Last words came from the Provincial MEC of Human Settlements, Helen Sauls-August, "The accolades bestowed upon our projects have truly motivated us to intensify our efforts to deliver on our mandate, being confirmed as the overall winners from other provinces motivates the province to do more and win more categories in the future," concluded the MEC.



**BEST  
WOMAN  
CONTRACTOR 1:  
SUN SUCCESS  
CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS CC**

STORY BY KELOPILE TLHODI





**P**alesa Manche (41) a mother of two took the award for Best Woman Contractor of the year at the Govan Mbeki Awards Ceremony.

She established Sun Success Construction Project CC in 2004 and has never looked back. She has worked on numerous projects around the North West Province. Other awards under her belt include Best Woman Contractor in the North West Provincial Awards also in 2014 for the Eradication of the Groot Marico Informal Settlement under the Ramotshere Moila Local Municipality and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize win again at the North West Provincial Awards in 2013 for the Motla Housing Project.

Manche's passion is derived from creating opportunities and empowering others. She puts her heart into her work and that's what makes her successful. She recalls her mother encouraging her to start her own business and she has done the same for her daughters. Gomolemo Manche (28) who is a 50% partner in Sun Success also owns a travel agency and Tshegofatso Manche (25) owns a clothing boutique La Manche.

When asked about how she feels about her mother's success Gomolemo said, "We are proud of her, she works very hard, she always takes advantages of opportunities presented to her and has always encouraged females in our family to venture into business. She has always been a silent partner in our businesses and she has just made it look so easy and effortless. We are truly proud of her."

The construction sector is a male dominated sector. Manche reckons that there is always pressure but women are managing because when they do something they put their heart into it. She quickly advised women in business to be responsible with their finances and to invest back into the business. She also advises women to seek advice from knowledgeable counterparts "don't be afraid to ask if you don't know." She says

"When I was nominated I was happy but when I heard my name being called as the winner, I felt tears of joy coming from my eyes. I am so grateful I have won. It was a beautiful day for me and my team. I feel blessed to have won this award while we are celebrating 20 years of democracy in our country," said Manche.

North West MEC for Human Settlements was quoted by online media saying that "I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Palesa Manche, we are celebrating women's month and this shows that indeed women are the rocks that our nation is built on."

The Department of Human Settlements is very passionate about empowering women contractors and honouring them as the country celebrates 20 years of democracy. "When women build they build with the same meticulous care with which they raise a child," Lindiwe Sisulu Minister of Human Settlements said.

Also nominated in the category for best woman contractor was Masiqhame Trading 28 cc who was the second winner and Motheo Group was the first runner up.

# BEST WOMAN CONTRACTOR 2: MASIQHAME TRADING 28CC

Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu in her speech during the 2014 annual Govan Mbeki Awards held in Sandton Convention Centre, stated that women are an outstanding species, when they put their minds to doing something, it happens and when they build; they build with the same meticulous care with which they raise a child.

Gladys Mantsho Mokoena, the founder of Masiqhame Trading 28cc based in the Western Cape, was crowned as the Best Woman Contractor during the awards.

The 56 year old originally from Qwaqwa in the Free State is a single parent raising three girls and three boys. Life has thrown all kinds of challenges but none of those managed to keep her from realising her dreams. She takes a deep breath before she shares some of the happiest and saddest memories in her childhood and as she remembers how her single mother took care of her and her siblings.

“The business I am doing requires me to be closer to the people I work with, hence I stay in Cape Town and all my children are staying with my sister in Qwaqwa but I make sure I visit home more often and they also get the chance to come see me,” she explains

Gladys had high hopes of becoming involved in construction as she loved it. Since she did not go to school she saw the construction industry as the only way she can use all the skills she had. Her frustration turned into joy when she got a job as a tape

measurer at a construction company called Boltern in Kimberley.

She used the opportunity and dedicated all her time in doing her work properly, learned other skills such as building, plastering, plumbing and painting and her employer noticed the potential and enrolled her for her first certificate in Construction.

Gladys registered her own company that offers a professional construction and development of new dwellings, extensions on existing houses and maintenance in 2004 and has built over 1,050 houses in the Western Cape and also builds in Wallacedene place that is also part of the Sisonke Phase 2. Between 2004-2006 her company built a hospital in Stellenbosch and a 15 storey hotel (Southern Sun) in Cape Town, for Group Five Construction.

Currently they have completed a PHP Contract of 32 houses, in Wallacedene.

When she was announced as the trophy winner, she couldn't hide her excitement and joy as she raised the on stage.

“I chose construction because I wanted to do something that men do and because I enjoy a challenge. Since it is also women's month, I would like to tell other women that they must not loose hope and stick to their dreams no matter how difficult it may be or seem, with God as our pillar of strength we can all do it.”

“I want to teach other women what I do to show them that Construction is not only for men and I think winning this award will motivate me and give me the platform to carry on with what I love,” she added.



# BEST ACCREDITED MUNICIPALITY: POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

**P**olokwane Local Municipality located in the Capricorn District in the Limpopo Province was accredited in 2012 and in 2014 they won the Best Accredited Municipality during the Govan Mbeki Awards. The municipality is however working towards achieving full accreditation reaching level 3 within the next two years. Furthermore, the attainment of full accreditation will allow the Municipality to plan its own projects, procure service providers and manage contracts, as well as service providers.

“What motivates us as a Municipality and engaging in playing a huge part in service delivery is making a difference to vulnerable and needy community members by creating equal opportunities for them to access housing opportunities in the form of serviced sites, complete housing unit and even the provision of basic services,” says Robert Maetisa, Assistant Manager Housing and Building Inspections at the municipality.

The Polokwane Local Municipality has a population of over 618 536 and the level of housing demand is close to ±60 000, while there are three striving projects mentioned as key under the municipality known as:

(1) In-Situ upgrading of the largest informal Settlement in the Municipality known as Disteneng Ext 78. 1000 housing units were allocated to beneficiaries from the New Pietersburg and Disteneng. The settlement is currently in good condition and a monitoring drill is done timeously to ensure that no re-squatting is taking place.

(2) Completion of 189 Community Residential Units in Seshego and

(3) Integrated Residential Project of Bendor Ext 100.

“Polokwane Municipality managed to win this category because they invested in developing internal capacity to ensure that developments of strategic documents are done in-house such as Business Plans, Housing sector plans and also policies related to housing. As the only Municipality in the Province that is accredited to this level, we consider ourselves as a role model for other Municipalities for which they can benchmark against,” said Matshidiso Mothapo, Communications Assistant Manager at the municipality.

“This merit award is a great achievement and inspiration to our staff, and is dedicated to the community we serve. They need to understand that this is the beginning, great things are coming. As soon we take over housing functions that are currently performed by the Provincial department, people will see more awards coming our way.

“The municipality is pleased to receive this award as it demonstrates our commitment to improving the living conditions of the residents of Polokwane. The award serves as a motivation for the municipality to do more in creating a better life for the people. It also serves to demonstrate that the municipality is ready to assume the housing functions as a housing provider,” concluded Mothapo.



*The relationship between the Municipality and the community is a harmonious one. The municipality believes in consultation with all stakeholders from planning to implementation.*

# BEST PRIORITY PROJECT: CORNUBIA

The Govan Mbeki Awards are designed to honour excellence in the Human Settlements sector and acknowledge Provincial Human Settlements Departments, Human Settlements institutions, Municipalities and developers that exceed expectations in delivering quality housing and creating sustainable human settlements.

The best priority project category had three nominees Cornubia from KwaZulu-Natal, Drommedaris from the Western Cape and Klarinet from Mpumalanga. Cornubia was crowned the best priority project on the night with Drommedaris as the first runner up and Klarinet as the second runner up.

Cornubia Housing project is one of the best projects in South Africa, it is a multimillion rand project and will consist of 28 000 mixed income housing units, and 15 000 of these will be government subsidised and low-income homes upon completion. Among the infrastructure included in this the project is light industrial factories, retail parks, schools, various businesses and open parks. It will take over 15 to 25 years to complete the development and the first phase which has 1 300 units was officially opened by President Jacob Zuma on 6 April 2014.

For a project to be considered for the best priority project award it must have implemented the principles of the Comprehensive Plan for Development of Sustainable Human Settlements, improved the living conditions in sustainable human settlements for the communities in the targeted areas and accelerated delivery of human

settlements to address housing backlog.

Cornubia has managed to do exactly that as it brings people from various parts of eThekweni and it is a diverse community with people from different racial groups and cultures and people from the middle and lower classes now own a house here. The project is a partnership between the National Department of Human Settlements, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Human Settlements, eThekweni Metropolitan and sugar conglomerate Tongaat Hulett.

“To manage such a complex multi-disciplinary project requires all the skills and discipline that the City has. We are grateful for the collaboration and support from our national and provincial counterparts, and hopeful that other sector departments will be able to engage with the project and provide the necessary services and facilities to ensure that the vision of an integrated, sustainable and cohesive community is achieved. We also have benefitted and appreciate the strength of our private sector partner who has added tremendous value to the project,” said Beryl Mphakathi-the Head of Human Settlements in eThekweni Municipality.

The entire project is expected to create 4800 permanent jobs while another 15000 jobs will be created during the construction phase, we are very proud and excited to have won this award this is the culmination of many years of hard work, planning and implementation. This also validates that the priority status given to Cornubia by Cabinet has been responded to effectively by the Municipality,” said Municipal Manager Sibusiso Sithole.



# BEST CONTRACTOR IN THE NON-SUBSIDY MARKET: MOTHEO CONSTRUCTION

During the 2014 Govan Mbeki Award, the story of success repeated itself at Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg when the name Motheo Construction was called out as a winner for the Best Contractor in Non Subsidy Market.

Ever thought about what medical practice and construction industry have in common. These two career fields sound much apart from each other.

However, a common aspect of happiness is what made Chief Executive Officer of Motheo Construction, Dr Thandi Ndlovu to smoothly move from one field to the other.

While she practiced as a Medical doctor, a thought of getting into construction and building the houses for poor communities is what she yearned to do. These thoughts created goals that were achieved because of passion.

During her five years of running a practice in Orange Farm, an informal settlement situated South of Johannesburg. She observed how life in a poor environment affected good health.

A vision of starting a construction company became a reality, when Motheo Construction was formed in 1997.

Motheo has collected awards which recognise the quality of work done through their various building projects from Provincial and National Government over the past 17 years.

“One of our focus areas is the development of young talent and today we have six black women who hold in excess of 50 percent of the company shares,” said Dr Ndlovu.

“We are registered with the National Home Builder Registration Council and we remain in good standing,” she added.

Building quality houses and a positive approach to the issues that concerned projects has been a major highlight that made Motheo Construction a winner.

Numbers have spoken, Motheo Construction has to date delivered community residential units around the country with a combined estimated value of R1 billion.

Over the years, the organisation has demonstrated an ability to deliver quality rental housing. Consistently enrolling in different provinces to provide quality work, the organisation has also managed to show leadership by mentoring other upcoming housing associations.

Some of the biggest social housing projects the organisation has built is the Orlando Station which was completed between 2009 and 2010. This R60 million project took about 18 months to complete.



# BEST COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 1: MASIMONG 4

As populations grow, cities become more crowded than ever, Community Residential Units (CRU) have become an important way for governments around the world to provide accommodation to people leaving their homes for work opportunities in cities.

These modern housing projects frequently incorporate eco-conscious designs and elements, such as efficient energy usage. One of these projects is called Masimong 4 which was recently awarded the best Community Residential Units during the Govan Mbeki Awards 2014.

This is an unprecedented Public Private Partnership development involving the National Department of Human Settlements, Free State Provincial Department of Human Settlements, Matjhabeng Local Municipality and Harmony Gold, which donated the land, buildings, bridging finance and initial property management for the first two years. The R300 million high rise housing projects consist of 461 units in total, comprising of bachelors, one-bedroom, two-bedrooms and three-bedrooms.

This Community Residential Units project provides affordable rental housing for lower income households earning between R800 and R3500 per month who are not able to buy their own homes through banks. The CRU Programme aims to facilitate the provision of secure, stable rental tenure for lower-income individuals.

Masimong 4's previous hostel dwellings that provided single sex occupant accommodation on a per bed approach was deemed inhuman by the South African government. This project has brought back

dignity to the targeted mine workers and residents of Masimong. The project has a recreational centre, banks, church, creche, media centre, paraplegic workshop and places where people can do their shopping.

The mayor of Matjhabeng municipality, Cllr Sebenzile Ngangelizwe expressed excitement on partnering with Harmony Gold to build homes for beneficiaries and continued to say that the municipality saw fit to use existing infrastructure and approached the mine owners through the Department of Human Settlements. "Our government can never do it alone, the Public Private Partnership is important in upgrading the quality of lives of our people," said the Mayor.

"No company or firm exists in a vacuum. We are all part of the bigger picture and if our people are not taken care of by us together with government, we will all sink. Business has no future if the workers do not have proper human settlements," said Patrice Motsepe, Chairman of Harmony Gold during the handover ceremony in 2012.

The project plan facilitated environment renewal through the use of green technology, including the harvesting of existing building material and solar heating. This project created 600 job opportunities and contributed to the social upliftment of the beneficiaries. It also contributed significantly to urban renewal objectives in the area.



# BEST COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 2: SESHEGO

The hard work and efforts put into giving the people of Limpopo sustainable settlements really paid off. The Seshego Community Residential Units in Limpopo province was honoured as the best community residential units at the annual National Govan Mbeki Awards.

Limpopo Provincial Department has over the years provided homes to hundreds in the province. Minister of Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu awarded prizes to best winners that excelled in accelerating housing delivery and improving the lives of citizens by building sustainable Human Settlements. The glamorous event was held at Sandton Convention Centre in Gauteng.

The Director for Human Settlements Development in the Waterberg District, Limpopo Province, Rogers Monama said being recognised is a reflection of a small hard working team that is committed to changing the reality of previously excluded communities to participate in creating their own built and economic futures.

“The award demonstrates that citizens can now own their neighbourhoods. It proves that low income communities deserve and expect thoughtful, considered design solutions, which in turn enable social cohesion and shows that even if we are building for lower income communities, we can strive and achieve excellence, in spite of the various increasing fiscal and human resource challenges being experienced in the public sector,” said Monama.

Currently, the Limpopo Provincial Department of Human Settlements is building over 9000 housing units in 23 integrated sustainable human settlements projects as well as 514 community residential units in key towns of Limpopo.

“Trying to implement the vision and principles of the Breaking New Grounds Policy and the first pilot project in the province will always mean having to tackle misconceptions, preconceptions and a certain amount of resistance. Without the support of key senior officials in the Department this project would not have succeeded in overcoming many hurdles and we thank them very much for standing by this project through its dark days. The best part of the journey has been watching my colleagues and the community members gaining confidence and learning new skills by pushing new boundaries,” said Monama.

A complete redevelopment project in Seshego (Polokwane) which comprised of a total of 189 units built in two phases has been completed. The previous male hostel was demolished and it made way for the high density two bedroom double story units that allow for family living. There is a recreation centre, a clinic, shops and a play area for children. As part of its “eradicating poverty” drive, this project employed 245 locals. Each unit has a garden and recreational area.

*The best part of the journey has been watching my colleagues and the community members gaining confidence and learning new skills by pushing new boundaries.*



# BEST ENHANCED PEOPLES' HOUSING PROCESS: NAMIBIA STOP 8

STORY BY KELOPILE TLHODI

**N**amibia Stop 8 in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal took the award for the best Enhanced Peoples' Housing Process project during the prestigious Govan Mbeki Awards 2014.

The Peoples' Housing Process (PHP) is a people centred housing programme in which beneficiaries are actively involved in the decision-making over the building of the houses, the people are in charge of their own house construction process. The objective is to deliver better human settlements outcomes based on community contribution, partnerships and leveraging of additional resources.

Namibia Stop 8 is a community partnership project with the eThekweni Municipality, the KZN Provincial Department of Human Settlements and the Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP). An area that was once large hectares of greenfields has now been completely transformed to Phase 1 of the project consisting of 250 units of which 96 units were done by FEDUP.

Jeff Thomas, project coordinator says that there are no contractors to make profit off this project so all the money goes towards building the top structure and that in turn means the quality of the houses are of a better standard.

"Development is not only up to the government, Communities and Community Based Organisations need to lend a hand. They need to be committed South Africans and take part in such processes," said Thomas.

The R5,5 million project is located on Hafajee's land in Inanda area on the outskirts of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. The houses are 50m<sup>2</sup> complete with a full bathroom,

wooden door and window frames, air vents, wooden trusses and interior and exterior plastering. The community is encouraged to participate in the saving scheme that will enable them to put further enhancements to their houses.

One of the elements of Peoples' Housing Process (PHP) is beneficiary empowerment. The Namibia Stop 8 community benefited economically from this project as recruitment for construction and other roles were done by the community. They gained employment opportunities and skills transfer as those with skills shared their expertise with others.

Anna Makhabela speaking for the community said that the community is very proud of their houses. "People are happy with the quality of houses that they received. We are happy with the work done by FEDUP in mobilising communities and encouraging them to dream about the kind of houses they want. They helped us by providing support and form partnerships with government and other organisations to bring these dreams to life. With a PHP project there is a higher sense of ownership and people take pride and responsibility over their new home," concluded Makhabela.

Namibia Stop 8 was competing with Diepsloot, an alternative technology PHP project in Gauteng and the Elliotdale Rural Project in the Eastern Cape.



# BEST RURAL PROJECT: VULINDLELA RURAL PROJECT

Umsunduzi Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal province has produced the Best Rural Project with its provision of 21 767 housing units at a budget of almost R22 million at Vulindlela Rural Housing Project situated West of Pietermaritzburg.

Work on this housing scheme started in 2012 and is expected to take five years once it is completed, replacing mostly mud and other types of informal dwellings in the area whilst also addressing mass unemployment.

The Annual Govan Mbeki Awards were established by the National Department of Human Settlements as an effort to continue to facilitate, promote and inculcate a culture of excellence within the human settlements sector with regard to quality housing delivery to bring back the dignity and comfort to now more than 3.8million households.

The National Urban Reconstruction Housing Agency (NURCHA) was appointed by the Vulindlela Development Association to manage all the funding requirements for the project. Dezzo Holdings (Pty) Ltd is the contractor for this massive project.

According to the KwaZulu-Natal Head of the Department, Greta Appelgreen, her Department has targeted all the rural areas for housing development with the aim to improve the living conditions and standards in these areas.

The province has prioritised the senior citizens who are taking care of a number of grand-children who have been orphaned.

Thokozani Magagula, the project Manager could not contain his excitement saying the project is the benchmark for other provinces and that they are committed to out-do themselves even in future projects.

He said that “more challenges are in northern KwaZulu-Natal where the shortage of the housing stock is acute.”

Besides the other challenges such as the mountainous terrain, high prices of the building materials and energy resources to name but a few, the province has succeeded to turn the tide around for a great number of people. This is through the provision of a five-room house to people most in need such as the elderly, disabled and child headed households.



# BEST INSTITUTION: RHLF

It was a joyous moment for The Rural Housing Loan Fund (RHLF) as they were called to receive the award for the best performing institution during the 2014 Govan Mbeki Awards, as a result of the consistent good performance over the years. RHLF has delivered cumulative 425 344 loans as at the end of June 2014 valued just over R1,3 billion. These loans have enabled borrowers to build new houses, extend existing houses, and connect to services such as electricity and water.

“We are really humbled and excited by this recognition of the work that we do. It is positive feedback that we highly appreciate. We believe, however, that credit should not only go to the RHLF team and our intermediaries, but also to the low income earners of rural South Africa who take loans, invest these loans in the improvement of their living conditions and repay the loans,” said the CEO of RHLF Jabulani Fakazi.

“This commendable behaviour has ensured that RHLF becomes a sustainable human settlements institution that can deliver on sustainable basis. In addition, we believe that by receiving this award, RHLF has proven that market based solutions do help address the needs of the poor. The RHLF delivery model should form the basis of delivery for the future as it advocates active citizenry which the National Development Plan calls for,” concluded Fakazi.

RHLF was formed by the National Government in 1996 with the mandate to facilitate access to unsecured incremental housing credit for low income earners who want to build or improve their housing conditions in rural areas of South Africa. This was

also aimed at helping people in rural areas that cannot access mortgage finance due to lack of ownership to land they occupy. In addition, many people in small towns, even where they have title to land, simply earn too little to qualify for mortgage finance and thus rely on own savings and unsecured housing credit to incrementally build their houses.

RHLF operates as a wholesale funder and in the process of delivering on its mandate identify intermediaries who access loan facilities and lend them to individual borrowers who want to build, extend or improve their houses in rural areas.

What motivates this entity into making sure that they deliver sustainable human settlements for all is a team who is passionate about development and the fact that the outcome of what they do ultimately benefits the working poor who would have found it difficult to access housing loans if the government did not establish RHLF to meet this need. This is very fulfilling and proves that the RHLF delivery model is sustainable as it is based on enabling people to do things for themselves.

The challenges facing RHLF is to achieve scale so that it can increase penetration of the market it serve. According to Census 2011 about 8,3 million households live in non-metropolitan areas and of this total, about 4,7 million households live in traditional and farm areas.



# BEST BANKING INSTITUTION: STANDARD BANK

One are the days when race used to determine if an applicant acquires a home loan and how much of it.

This year's winner of Govan Mbeki Award in the category Best Bank, Standard Bank granted more home loans than any of its competitors in 2013 and they also granted more home loans to previously disadvantaged individuals.

Generally, there is also a fundamental shift in the awarding of home loans as figures from most financial institutions demonstrated that lending is taking place amongst all racial groups in the country, which is a positive sign for home ownership to those who were previously disadvantaged.

In 2013 Standard Bank received 291 929 home loan applications, 101140 were approved and about 60000 of those were granted to African people.

While many home loans were approved, a significant number of applications were declined due to lack of affordability, unacceptable credit track record or security and insufficient information.

Standard Bank's Head of Affordable Housing, Nolwazi Nzama, attributed their success to her Bank unwavering commitment in providing financing to customers in the affordable housing market. "We know our achievement comes from our inclusive approach of working and cooperating with all key stakeholders in the housing value chain, they are so critical to the delivery of housing in this market. We are proud to say that Standard Bank fund one in every three houses in the country," said Nzama.

Furthermore, the National Credit Regulator's 2013 report showed that of the 20,26-million credit-active consumers, only 51,9% were classified in good standing. Annually, the number of credit-active consumers in good standing has decreased by 1,3%.

Nzama acknowledged that the shrinking number of credit-worthy customers was a problem and nonetheless their bank was committed to developing housing market. "And to do this, We are focusing on enabling and supporting the roll out of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP). We know this Human Settlements subsidy is a key initiative to enable people to own their own homes, and it greatly assists in the process of accessing credit for housing," explained Nzama.

"We know that owning a home means security, dignity and upliftment. We have been, and will continue to be, committed to our shared goal of providing adequate shelter to the affordable housing market in South Africa," she added.

ABSA came second with a total of 63 805 home loans approved and First Rand (FNB, RMB, Wesbank) came third with 62 455 (2013 stats).



# BEST SPONSOR: GROUP FIVE

Every year the National Department of Human Settlements sources sponsorship from the private sector in order to improve the quality of the lives of South Africans. These sponsorships come in different levels and types of contributions.

Group Five walked away with the title of the Best Sponsor in Human Settlements 2014, while being in the race with other active stakeholders in this category such as First National Bank and Pretoria Portland Cement.

Being in business for 40 years, Group Five has escalated tremendously in diverse construction, infrastructure concessions and related services in resource energy, real estate as well as infrastructure delivery with South Africa, a big percentage of other African countries as well as Eastern Europe.

The group is highly active in large traditional housing, public utilities, and also focusing on low-cost high-volume housing. The key projects that they have built over the last five years are: Brandvlei Prison in the Western Cape; Moses Mabhida Stadium in KwaZulu-Natal; King Shaka International Airport in KwaZulu-Natal, and the University of Johannesburg in Gauteng.

Business Developer and Non-Executive Director Themba Mthethwa mentioned that the reason why his company won Best Sponsor in Human Settlements is that they make it an initiative to stick to their promises and it is the group's priority to be involved each year. "Most organisations will make pledges and in the long run they don't stick to their word. As Group Five we are consistent, trustworthy and committed.

This title will be of proof," stated Mthethwa. During the year of 2014, Group Five sponsored the Department's Youth build, an annual event that takes place during the month of June in commemorating the 1976 Soweto Uprising. This year it was held in Kimberley in the Northern Cape. The sponsorship went towards Business management training for the 100 volunteers that participated in the building of houses in the Lindelani Informal Settlement where the actual build occurred. "Receiving this award is encouraging, it shows that we are being recognised for the work that we do," said Mthethwa.





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