



GOVAN MBEKI HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AWARDS 2012



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



GOVAN MBEKI
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AWARDS 2012





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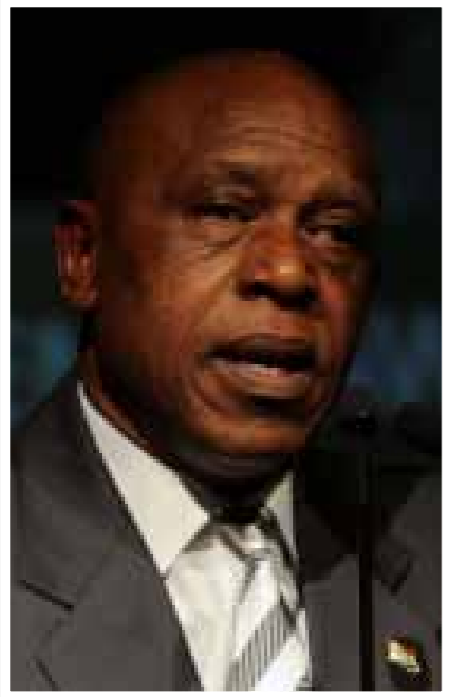
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I am humbled by the dedication and commitment that has characterised the calibre of giants of positive change in the persons and companies we are honouring in the build environment. It gives me great pleasure and fulfilment that indeed, we are reaching the goals we have set ourselves to accomplish, though in some cases the efforts take some time due to numerous challenges such as the economic melt-down of most world economies which manifests itself in crises such as the high cost of building material, transport costs, etc.

We are pleased to award excellence to the people who have made and continue to make a significant difference in the lives of many people. They go out of their way doing all kinds of chores for the betterment of their and other people's conditions.

Such people deserve recognition and it is fitting that we in the Human Settlements arena have decided to periodically reward excellence and honour those who have gone the extra mile to make a positive difference in many a people's lives. Collaboration pays healthy dividends. You will recall the great socialist scientist Karl Marx who collaborated with Frederick Engels to write 'Das Kapital' which is widely referred to with respect to the Proletariat struggles. It is such sharing of information and ideas that has produced some pockets of excellence which we are honouring today as we confer various categories to deserving individuals and organisations.

The Human Settlements Department has been blessed with visionaries such as its first Minister, Josef Slovo, who in collaboration with a number of Build Environment practitioners and related entities signed a historic Botshabelo Accord in 1995 in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, which heralded the revolutionary ways of dealing with the acute shortage of shelter, and gave rise to the Housing Act of 1996. Among the most important aspects, this Act took the question of housing seriously and made it a point that the right to shelter is also enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Subsequent Ministers, that is, Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele, Bridgitte Mabandla and Lindiwe Sisulu followed in Slovos' footsteps to improve the conditions

of a number of homeless persons by providing shelter to deserving families through various government instruments such as Individual Subsidies, Institutional Subsidies as well as Rural Subsidies – to name but a few.

It is therefore my duty as the Human Settlements Minister to continue from where all these giants left off. We now have a total of over three million persons housed in sustainable and decent housing, and which now has infrastructure such as roads, schools, churches, parks, recreational centres, etc. The Government cares about its people and wants to see them come out of poverty. It is constantly improving the lives of its people through other interventions such as Human Settlements Vision 2030, 'Each-One-Settle-One', etc. which, among other tenets, make provision for the next generations to live in decent and sustainable shelter that they could be proud of.

South Africa is a signatory to the United Nations Protocol that recognises the right to decent shelter for every human being. The African Union also has this right enshrined in its Charter.

We are advocating for inclusive human settlements, hence the announcement by President Jacob Zuma in 2009 that the Housing Department would henceforth be called Human Settlements to depict the inclusiveness that we are talking about and to build new cities that will ensure close proximity to all amenities, especially a transport system with the aim of reducing costs to and from work of many workers as well as the availability of other basic necessities.

I am also pleased to announce that finally, Government has approved the application of FLISP – the Financed Linked Individual Subsidy Programme which will see persons earning up to R15 000 per month getting housing assistance. This category of people is finding it difficult to be financed by the main banks or to obtain assistance from the funds allocated to the poorest of the poor, hence their inclusion in the gap market.

We also have good news for housing consumers in that the Estate Agency Affairs Board has been transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to the Human Settlements Department which, among other positive spin-offs, will give us an opportunity to fast-track de-racialising our residential areas. I am also ecstatic that sanitation has been elevated to being one of the strategic priority projects, thanks to the Ministerial Task Team headed by Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela which toured the whole country to assess the state of affairs of sanitation and related aspects.



The Minister of Human Settlements, Mr Tokyo Sexwale enjoying the 2012 Govan Mbeki Awards event with Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Head of the Ministerial Sanitation Task Team and Mr Danny Jordaan, Chairman of the Board of the Office of Disclosure

A decision has also been taken to appoint one of the greatest minds behind the success of the 2010 FIFA World Cup hosted in South Africa, namely Mr Danny Jordaan to be the chairman of the Board of the Office of Disclosure. This is an effort to keep abreast with the lending patterns by banking institutions to especially the poor people who are regarded as a risk and who cannot be assisted through the normal Human Settlements Subsidy Programmes as they fall into the gap market.

Lastly, I am warning the would-be fraudsters in the Human Settlements arena that they should not take the public for granted, as the arm of the law could reach them wherever they may be.

It is through the concerted efforts of all the South Africans that we will be able to house all the homeless persons, get rid of shacks and build sustainable human settlements that people can be proud of and not shy to call them home.



The entertainment by our own Sipho 'Hotstix' Mabusa set the mood for the whole evening





The Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards is a prestigious ceremony hosted in all provinces and nationally by the Department of Human Settlements.

- (a) The awards present an opportunity for recognising efforts by showcasing excellent accomplishments and milestones within the programmes that are outlined in the Outcome 8.
- (b) These awards promote best practice and healthy competition and therefore motivate all stakeholders in the Human Settlements space to harness human and other resources in accelerating delivery. It is therefore in this environment that the achievements and 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. This provision includes choice quality housing opportunities with secure tenure and access to water and sanitation.
- (c) 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 and making the millennium development goals achievable by 2014.

Origin of the name

These awards first emerged as 'Housing Awards' and were last held in 1998. In 2006, the awards were named after the late stalwart of the African National Congress, Govan Mbeki, and are now held under the auspices of an extended mandate of the Department of Human Settlements.

Who was Govan Mbeki?

It is fitting to name the awards after a man of his calibre whose main interest at heart was for the improvement and development of the lives of other people. Govan Mbeki, a warrior and revolutionary, an educator, a publicist, an organiser and leader of our people over many decades, was tenaciously fighting this good cause. He had

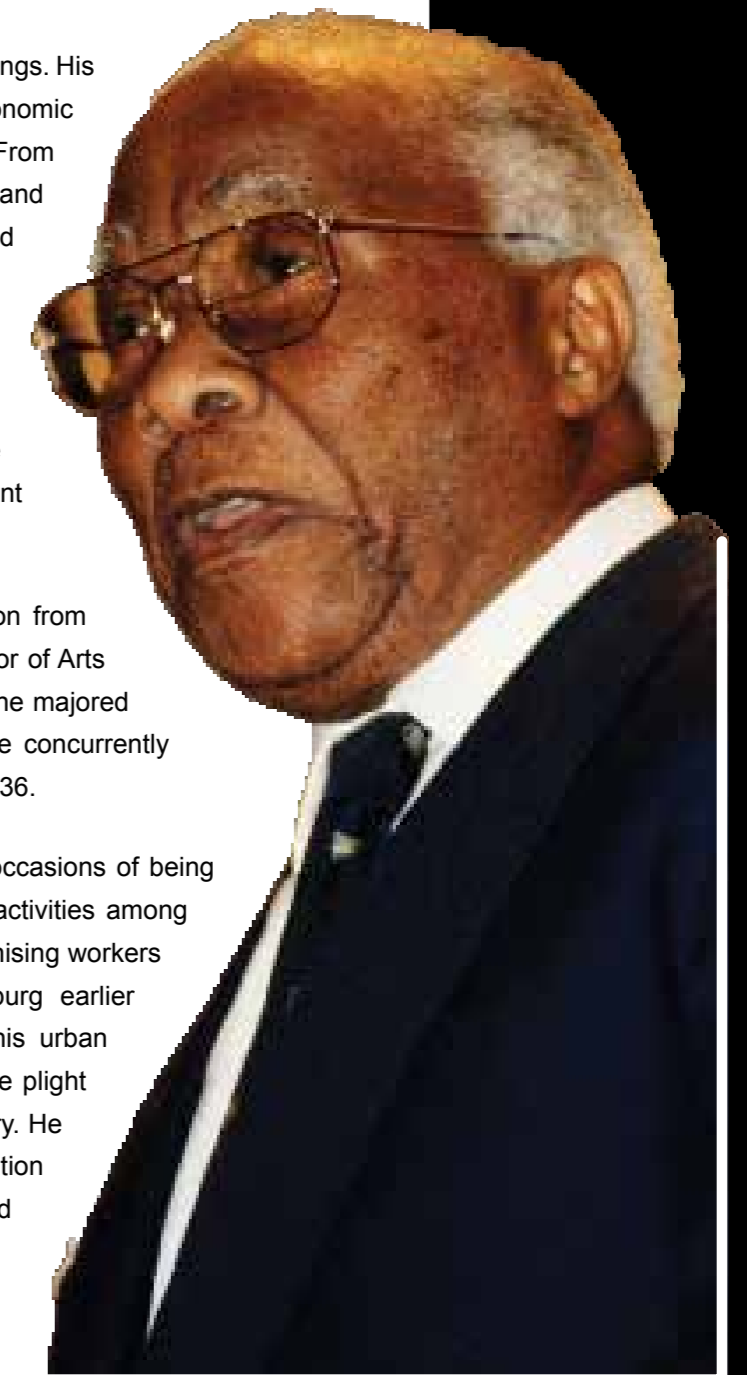
unique qualities of selflessness and abhorred the oppression and exploitation that were prevalent like a scourge and affecting the millions of people in the country.

He was born and bred in the former Transkei area (now known as Eastern Cape) on 09 July 1910. This is where he spent the better part of his early life and gained first-hand knowledge and experience of the crude conditions and problems facing the majority of people in the area. Hence, he could form a picture of the small peasant's life in the area – a phenomenon which was prevalent in most areas of South Africa during this time.

He is still respected for his brilliant and scholarly writings. His theoretical approach was shaped by the socio-economic and political phenomena of the era he lived in. From being one of the most important producers of grain and wool for export at the time of the discovery of gold and diamonds, the Transkei at the turn of the century was being reduced to critical dependence on the developing capitalist economy ushered in by the mining revolution. It was the intimate knowledge gained during this time that enabled him to write with such incision on the relationship between migrant labour and capitalist production.

He obtained his primary and high school education from mission schools and went on to pursue his Bachelor of Arts degree at the Fort Hare University College, where he majored in Politics and Psychology. He pursued his degree concurrently with a Teaching Diploma and completed these in 1936.

His teaching career was thwarted by intermittent occasions of being laid off from employment because of his political activities among the students and the local community, and for organising workers and the trade unions. He moved to Johannesburg earlier than anticipated in 1929, and the exposure to this urban environment completed his picture of the desperate plight of the African working people throughout the country. He saw the poverty of the black Africans, and the humiliation they suffered when the neighbourhoods were raided by police in their quest to check passes and detain





illegal liquor drinkers. It became inevitable for an activist like Govan not to join a movement and struggle against an unjust system.

His involvement started much earlier, in 1925, when he became interested in the activities of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU), the first mass-based workers' movement in South Africa for black workers.

In 1938, he went back to the Transkei and devoted himself only to local politics and writing. His first publication was a magazine called Territorial Magazine later renamed Inkundla Ya Bantu. This can be literally translated as The People's Court. In 1939, he published his first essays in book form, The Transkei in the Making. By 1941, he was actively involved in a number of local and regional organisations such as the Transkei Voters' Association, Transkei Organised Bodies and Transkei Territorial Authorities General Council – the Bunga – as it was commonly known. This scenario was a government-inspired creation of elected members, where Govan and other nominated individuals from the Chieftaincies participated with very limited administrative powers in the Transkei.

Govan established widespread contacts, and his writings and activities earned him the respect of many people because of his involvement in these organisations. He became popularly known as 'a man of the people'. His practical revolutionary approach permeated the small peasant communities whom he encouraged to form simple cooperatives, to accumulate and maximise on their resources and labour, so as to improve production. Hence, he ultimately published an easily understood pamphlet on cooperative farming.

He felt strongly about the power of the written word without losing sight of the necessary practical revolutionary activity. He had a literary ability and was capable of discerning and translating the reality of apartheid South Africa in its social, political, economic and other facets into the written word. In 1954, he joined the editorial board of New Age which was to be the only national newspaper serving the liberation movement for the next eight years. Together with Ruth First, Brian and Sonya Bunting, and the other members of the editorial board, Govan played an immensely important role in ensuring that the pages and columns reflected the conditions of the black people, their demands and aspirations.

Govan and his staff on the 'Eastern desk' of the New Age were responsible for opening the eyes of black South Africans, especially the political leadership of the movement, to the fierce, bloody and malignant struggles in the countryside between

the regime and the peasants from the period 1956 to 1960.

In November 1962, the then Minister of Justice, JB Vorster, banned New Age, a fate which had befallen its predecessor, The Guardian almost 10 years earlier. Vorster went further and also banned the editorial board, which meant that not only the newspaper but also its writers and editors were stopped from having anything to do with the preparation, editing, printing and distribution of the paper. The phenomenon of changing the names of the liberation newspapers had become common under such challenges, but this did not dampen the attitude and motives of these activists. Govan resorted to the underground involvement and this alternative resulted in the first explosions of the armed struggle that rocked South Africa on 16 December 1961.



**"Remember in baton boot and bullet ritual
The bloodhounds of Monster Vorster wrote
SOWETO over the belly of my land
with the indelible blood of infants
So the young are no longer young
Not that they demand a hasty death"**

The poem "Dawn" by "Bra Willie", Keorapetse William Kgositsile (inaugurated as South Africa's National Poet Laureate in 2006), expresses the feelings of the times. It was published in the New Age before it was banned and before he went into exile in 1962.

The 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 poor and needy people.



Minister Sexwale and MEC Madikizela celebrating with the N2 Gateway Project Team

N2 Gateway Project wins Best Priority Project Award

Pompi Thobakgale

The N2 Gateway Project is a joint initiative of the National Department of Human Settlements, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements and the City of Cape Town. It was born of the national government's renewed commitment to sustainable development. Human settlements development translates into a broadened focus with greater emphasis to be placed on identifying and acquiring land for housing located in more central parts of cities and towns to achieve equity and integration.

This is also a deliberate effort to directly address the needs of people living in informal settlements without adequate services and shelter, with their full participation in the development process through existing programmes such as the People's Housing Process Project.



N2 Gateway Project

The N2 gateway project was planned to ensure that new neighbourhoods and existing settlement upgrades are planned with a range of social and commercial facilities such as recreation, health, education, transport, markets and workplaces. The project also became more directly involved in interventions to ensure that the residential property market is functioning effectively and in a non-exclusionary manner for both rich and poor people. The creation of housing as both a usable and a saleable asset for households at the lower cost end of the market is essential, and planned settlements will prevent urban sprawl, maximise environmental efficiency, and contribute to access for the poor through spatial restructuring, instead of contributing to their marginalisation through peripheral location.

It is worth noting that the housing backlog is at its highest magnitude in the informal settlements and slums located on the periphery of cities, towns and mining areas. This housing programme is delivering housing at a large and efficient scale and thereby seeks to reduce the shortage of appropriate housing stock. Informal settlements are homes to people with a range of housing and social circumstances, and therefore some households do not qualify for the housing subsidy because they may be better off, may not have legal permission or recognition to be settled in the country, or do not have dependants to justify their sense of urgency. The N2 gateway addressed



N2 Gateway Project

the needs of whole communities together, distributing the benefits of secure tenure, services and shelter according to agreed principles.

The project necessitates a scaled intervention; hence it is geographically limited to the informal settlements bordering on the N2 between the Cape Town International Airport and the city centre. Nyanga, Joe Slovo, New Rest, Barcelona and Europe are the areas prioritised by the project because the households in the area suffer acute shelter and income poverty; their incomes are very depressed; education levels are extremely low; unemployment is three times higher than in the rest of the Western Cape; and access to adequate water, sanitation and energy is poor although slowly improving.



N2 Gateway Project

This project is grounded in the principles of the City's Integrated Development Plan, and specifically articulates the following programmes in the Infrastructure Development Plan:

- Informal Settlements upgrade;
- New subsidised housing;
- Integrated neighbourhoods;
- Community empowerment and development;
- Job creation; and
- Entrepreneur development.

The Annual Govan Mbeki Awards took place during April and May 2012, and the Zanemvula project won Best Priority Project in the Eastern Cape provincial leg of the awards. This win is a feather in the cap of the Eastern Cape and an achievement to be proud of. Congratulations to all associated with the project. Delft 7-9, as part of the N2 Gateway project in the Western Cape, also received an award for Best Contractor. The Housing Development Agency (HDA) is the implementing agent on behalf of the respective provinces for both these projects.



From left to right: Ms Khomotso Choma (CEO High Echelon), Ms Lindiwe Mahlangu (GMHA), Mr Thomas Ntuli (CEO GMHA), MEC Clifford Motsepe (Limpopo's Human Settlements MEC), Mr Bongani Mayaba (GMHA), Mr Freddy Ngobe (Human Settlements), Ms Pontso Mabelane (Human Settlements), Mr Dzibu Mashila (eMalahleni Municipality), Mr Eric Maimela (Human Settlements) and Mr Mxolisi Mabuza (Human Settlements)

Turnkey Group Mpumalanga

Tseleng Mokgotu

The success of this project can be traced back to a better understanding of the community by the role players: from inception and throughout all the stages. Also, a reciprocal approach earned Turnkey Group success, where the communities, as the recipients, received and bought into processes that were implemented to commence and complete the project. The Thubelihle community generously partnered with the project and identified with its challenges. Hence, they became prepared to supply local labour. It is also attributable to Khomotso Choma, the Chief Executive Officer who exercised her role very well by bringing insights and identifying available opportunities in the industry and bringing creative ideas to ensure delivery of a quality product within agreed timelines and within budget.

Capital was raised through Nurcha, a Human Settlements entity in order to bridge funding gaps and cater for eventualities that could hinder progress. The Mpumalanga Human Settlements Department's efficient and cooperative beneficiary administration ensured that claims were swiftly processed. Khomotso had to be



From a shack, to a dignified house - enough reason to jump with joy

operationally and diligently on site, exercising leadership to everyone involved in the project to overcome challenges and to grow from strength to strength. Hence, it is no surprise that the strategic role of this company was effective and also took Khomotso's business to greater heights. To date, the company built a total of 1 200 units in 8 projects for the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements and a total of 72 bonded houses in two projects.

The long-term goal of the company is to impact lives through social infrastructure, initiating and participating in projects that improve the lives of the marginalised. This is part and parcel of the government's efforts to eradicate poverty, and create work opportunities, of which this project managed to provide 400 employment opportunities at its peak.

Khomotso's message and advice entails teaming up of political principals in the calibre of Ministers to formulate workable policies with less cumbersome red-tape in order to win and empower the young and aspiring males and females who want to venture into the construction industry.

The plight of our country

Informal settlements are common to most developing countries which undergo a process of rapid urbanisation and have limited resources to address the housing needs of all its citizens – in particular the poor who flock to cities in search of a 'better life and future' for their families. Hence, the Programme for the Upgrading



of Informal Settlements is one of the most important programmes of government. This programme seeks to improve the living conditions of millions of poor people by providing secure tenure and access to emergency services as well as basic services and housing.

Experience has shown that access to basic services, secure tenure and a house provides a foundation to households to improve their social and economic circumstances. One of the basic tenets of the programme is that beneficiary communities must be involved in all aspects of the project cycle to ensure that existing fragile community survival networks are not compromised and to empower communities to take charge of their own settlement design standards and housing solutions. All members of the community, also those that do not qualify for subsidies, are included. The programme therefore aims to bring about social cohesion, stability and security in integrated developments, create jobs and economic growth for communities which did not previously have access to land and business services, formal housing and social and economic facilities and amenities.

The programme can be accessed by municipalities which will identify informal settlements to be upgraded within their areas of jurisdiction, and apply to the Provincial Housing Departments for funding for projects under this programme. This will be undertaken in close collaboration with the relevant communities. Project funding will be based on the number of persons that qualify for assistance and funding may include funds to facilitate community participation and empowerment. The programme also provides funding for project management purposes.

In his previous budget speech, Mr Tokyo Sexwale, the Human Settlements Minister alluded to a matter of serious concern regarding the manner in which the housing budget is utilised, in relation to information provided by recent research studies by the Department. It is evident that continuing with the current trend in the housing budget would lead to a funding shortfall of R102 billion in 2012 – which could increase to R253 billion by 2016.

Another problem is the general perception by government and the private sector that informal settlements should be 'eradicated'. The World Bank and UN Habitat have linked the concept of 'slum eradication' to the notion of 'slum-free cities' (for e.g. the Cities Alliance by-line 'Cities without Slums'). An informal settlement upgrading policy, by contrast, implies a slum-friendly and not a slum-free city. The challenge facing the urban poor in South Africa is that the government's Slum Upgrading Policy remains rooted in the vision of slum-free and not slum-friendly cities.

Proposal for change and improvement

There can be no meaningful change and improvement until there is recognition in both policy and practice that informal settlements are an asset to cities and are here to stay for the medium to long term. They are a proactive solution on the part of the urban poor to the housing crisis. What is more, any proposal for change needs to be predicated on the recognition of organised poor communities as key role players in and of active agents of development. This proposal for change advocates that the state's Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme includes the upgrading of informal settlements that are not on land that is 'suitable' for permanent residential development and that such upgrades be de-linked from the housing consolidation phase.

The overall objective of these pilot projects is to work with organised communities living in informal settlements that may not be upgraded in the foreseeable future by the state. In the process, significant milestones would be achieved. Organised communities would upgrade their homes and settlements incrementally by themselves, but with support from government. Concurrently, with densification of cities, communities facing a risk of eviction because of land ownership and land zoning issues would be more likely to secure tenure.

In order for communities to be the key actors in these pilots and later in a city-wide roll-out of people driven informal settlement upgrading, it is necessary for new social technologies to be introduced in the communities. Instead of traditional organised strategies of mobilising communities around demands for entitlements denied, a starting point would necessarily be the mobilisation of communities around their own resources and capacities without letting the state 'off the hook'.

The state would provide the framework and approaches that should provide knowledge and resources to organised communities and would require the central participation of women whose capacities to create solidarity networks and to manage micro finance are critical preconditions for any regularisation process. Effective systems of information and finance management enable communities to leverage resources either from the state or from the market. The combined dynamic of organised communities with the capacity to work together to plan the upgrading of informal settlements become dependable entry points for state institutions to deliver rights and entitlement.



The Emerald Sky Project Team celebrating their achievement

Presidential flagship social housing project wins Best Community Residential Units Award

Isaac Skosana

The Emerald Sky Social Housing Project in East London was announced the Best Community Residential Units (CRU) housing project during the National Govan Mbeki Awards at Gallagher Estate, Midrand in Gauteng.

The 656 mixed housing units project located in the Buffalo City Municipality is managed by SOHCO, a social housing institution comprising two section 21 companies, namely Sohco Amalinda Housing and Sohco Property Investment, with a development programme and investment properties in East London, Cape Town and Durban.

The project consists of 212 bachelor units, 180 one-bedroom units, and 264 two-bedroom units that have been designed to cater for households earning between R2 500 and R7 500 per month.



Emerald Sky Phase 2 Project

This project has a unique urban design and layout that is dictated by the typography. The number of units has been limited to 24 per building and are orientated to benefit from sunlight and views. The entrance has been designed to create a welcoming and embracing ambience, with open spaces and recreational spaces for adults and children living in the development. Paved and tarred roads have been used to create a road hierarchy.

The Emerald Sky village is situated close to shopping centres, and the industrial sites of Wilsonia and Braelyn. It is within walking distance of the Frere hospital and there are recreational and educational facilities within a five-kilometre radius of the development.

This is in line with the department's new mandate as announced by President Jacob Zuma in his 2009 state of the nation address.

'We will proceed from the understanding that human settlement is not just about building houses. It is about transforming our cities and towns and building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with closer access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreational facilities.'



Emerald Sky Phase 2 Project

The awards, hosted by Minister of Human Settlements, Tokyo Sexwale seek to honour role players in the human settlements value chain. These include developers, building contractors, the banking sector, community-based organisations, the mining sector, building material suppliers, and professional associations that have committed to partner with government in building sustainable human settlements.

'While some opt to first take care of themselves, others prefer to first extend a helping hand to their fellow man. This is altruism. Such people deserve recognition,' said Minister Tokyo Sexwale.



The Mbashe Municipality team celebrating

Best Enhanced People's Housing Process Project

Lebogang Mohlahlo

Three trophies, three certificates and a total amount of R200 000 was awarded to Elliotdale Rural Sustainable Human Settlements Eastern Cape, Mbashe Municipality at the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards ceremony. They won the award for being the best Enhanced People's Housing Process Project.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is the developer for the Eastern Cape Project. Mr Chuene Ramphele, Senior Manager of DBSA is responsible for the implementation of national and provincial mandates in the DBSA Development Fund, Infrastructure and Capacity Development Programmes. DBSA has been involved in a number of projects and currently conducts programmes for the Department of Basic Education, Eastern Cape Human Settlements, National Department of Health and Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development.



Elliotdale Rural Sustainable Human Settlements Project

The estimated MTEF (Mid-term Expenditure Framework) allocations to the programmes are in excess of R9 billion. Mr Chuene is a Project Manager conscious of costs, time and schedule and has both interpersonal and interactive skills to get this kind of work done. He learned all the mentioned skills through practice across the sectors and complemented these with his Masters in Business Leadership that he acquired from UNISA.

Though the project was a success, the team faced challenges of restoring confidence and convincing communities/beneficiaries and other stakeholders that the project would definitely be rolled out. To overcome this challenge, the team worked hard to ingrain development facilitation and promote the signing of charters with all involved to ensure that all the stakeholders were on board. The most rewarding experience for DBSA is seeing the building projects that failed to reach implementation being gotten off the ground through their involvement.

What is the People's Housing Process (PHP)?

People's Housing Process is a people-centred housing programme in which beneficiaries are actively involved in decision-making over the housing process, and in which they can contribute and participate in the housing development process.

The main objective is to deliver better human settlement outcomes, based on this community contribution.

Purpose of the PHP Programme

The main purpose of the PHP Programme is to deliver sustainable human settlements to beneficiaries, based on community contribution and the leveraging of additional resources through partnerships.

The PHP is a programme that:

- harnesses community initiatives;
- advocates community participation and ownership;
- promotes community empowerment through the transfer of skills; and
- builds community partnerships.

Qualifying criteria for the PHP Programme:

- Individuals that can organise and mobilise as a group
- Individuals that are already part of an organised group or are willing to be part of that group
- Individuals that are part of an organised savings group

Benefits of the PHP Programme:

- Beneficiaries are empowered individually and collectively
- The community actively participates in the housing process
- Partnerships between governments and communities are created
- Social capital is retained and expanded upon
- Housing is valued as an asset far beyond its monetary value
- Housing citizenship is built, with beneficiaries being aware of their housing rights and responsibilities
- Stable communities are fostered
- Socio-economic development within the communities is created
- Skills are transferred to the communities



- It is responsive to special needs/vulnerable groups (women, child-headed families, disabled persons)
- Building of bigger and better houses
- An opportunity for beneficiaries to contribute to the decision-making process that involves their houses

Where does the programme apply?

- Green fields developments
- In situ upgrading
- Informal settlements development
- Rural development

How to initiate a PHP project

Individuals who want to participate in PHP project should note the following:

1. They should belong to or form themselves into an organised group
2. They should determine their housing need
3. The Community-based Resource Organisation (CRO), in consultation with the beneficiary committee, compiles a beneficiary list containing identification and contact details
4. Municipalities will screen and verify beneficiaries
5. The CRO, with support from the BC, develops and submits a business plan
6. Beneficiaries wait for approval and make follow-up with the municipality

Who drives the PHP process?

The beneficiaries (individuals and communities) are the initiators and drivers of the PHP process.

Rights and responsibilities of the beneficiaries:

- Take the lead in initiating PHP projects in conjunction with other stakeholders, where appropriate;

- Access appropriate resources;
- Choose their level of participation in PHP projects, e.g. land identification and possibly acquisition, choice of house designs and layout, participation in building community structures, etc.;
- Proactively take ownership for project at community/grassroots level;
- Set up the appropriate leadership structures to engage with emerging CROs, municipalities, PHDs and other stakeholders, as required;
- Identify and mobilise own resources to contribute effectively to project;
- Contribute time/leadership/participation/ownership of the project by participating in community meetings and setting up a project steering committee;
- Home improvements, i.e.: food gardens;
- Treat house as a tool for creation of wealth; and
- Not sell the houses.

Definition of the CRO

- A Community-based Resource Organisation (CRO)
- A fundamental component within the Growth & Implementation Strategy to upscale PHP
- A vehicle to fast-track delivery
- Can be an extension of an established NGO, FBO or CBO
- Support organisations may become CROs, but should be a legal entity and meet all required criteria.



The North West Human Settlements team receiving their prize

FLISP, an instrument to accelerate the supply of affordable housing finance

BOIKETLONG PROJECT SCOOPS A PRIZE

Lebohang Nakana

Interest is mounting with regard to the new housing subsidy programme announced by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address in February 2012. In his speech, President Zuma announced the revised Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) as a tool or instrument to improve the country's property markets by facilitating the increased supply of affordable housing finance to all qualifying beneficiaries earning in the income bracket defined by the subsidy programme. As a means to showcase excellence and best practice during the recent Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards, Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats) and the North West Department of Human Settlements walked away with the award for the

best Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme. This success has illustrated earnest support to the President's and the Minister's call.

The Human Settlements sector in this country is one of the most serious challenges the country is facing. Demand for better human settlements is increasing equally to the demand for better property markets for well-located land and houses. The involvement of private entities to forge partnerships with the department can help to accelerate housing delivery, improve coordination and assist the department to identify challenges confronting the country's residential drive. Despite the above, the department continues to honour those working tirelessly to ensure that the ideal of social housing, affordable rental and home ownership is realised.

The Implats Boiketlong project made the North West Human Settlements department proud for scooping the Best Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme award during the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards that were staged recently. As the provincial officials – who were dressed to the nines – ascended the lively stage of Gallagher Estates to collect the award, one could hear only songs of praise and people ululating with happiness for the achievement. The award showcased excellence and the provincial commitment to deliver on the goals and expectations, said one of the officials who could not hide his excitement. The project is has been made possible by the North West Department of Human Settlements and Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats), which is a private entity not only focusing on the mining business and production of platinum, nickel, copper or cobalt but also championing the needs of its employees by creating a promoting and rewarding environment.

This contribution by Implats has not only benefited employees but also changed the face of our communities in which it operates. With the economy as it is, especially in the Rustenburg district where property has always been expensive, this has been more challenging for an average mining employee.

Implats has taken a bold step to support the provincial Department of Human settlements to honour the Minister's call of availing necessary measures and plans to ensure finance is available to all qualifying beneficiaries. The Boiketlong project was developed by the Impala Platinum Holdings Limited in partnership with the North West Provincial Human Settlements Department in order to accommodate at least 1 500 families within their workforce. The project is composed of 1 555 housing units, and estimated at accommodating more than 4 500 families. This project is estimated to the value of R40 million, consisting of affordable units with separate



toilets and bathrooms, running hot and cold water, electricity, and proper storm water and solar geysers.

Abraham Kobedi, aged 44, is a driver at Implats, who cannot get over the privilege of owning property for the first time. He had previously positioned himself for the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme as he always dreamt of his own home, and is therefore grateful to the Department of Human Settlements, National Housing Finance Corporation and the banks for reaching such a memorandum of understanding which adds value in people's lives.

In his speech, the Director-General of Human Settlements, Mr Thabane Zulu, emphasised that the awards were aimed at honouring key players who have contributed to the government's efforts to ensure the development of sustainable human settlements. This is also a symbol of honour of the efforts of the late Govan Mbeki, the stalwart of the liberation movement who fought tirelessly for the lives of the voiceless.

The National Housing Finance Corporation, under the watchful eye of the National Department of Human Settlements, is the National implementing institution tasked with the responsibility of implementing the newly revised strategy of the programme to improve the uptake of the subsidy with the goal to accelerate the delivery of housing opportunities while providing supply of affordable housing finance.

A memorandum of understanding between the National Department of Human Settlements and all the accredited lenders (Banks) has been concluded to show the department's eagerness to put this programme into effect. This is to ensure that the subsidy, as dictated by the qualification criteria, is available if the applicant's (beneficiary) home loan has been approved or if somehow the applicant has accessed mortgage finance.

The subsidy targets the gap market or households earning between R3 501 and R15 000 per month, which is over 20 percent of South Africa's population who can't access government housing subsidies. The qualifying beneficiary of the subsidy needs to be in contract with the Bank to access a home loan, which serves as a prerequisite to file the FLISP application. After identifying a newly built house worth R300 000 or less, built by an accredited developer and securing access to mortgage finance, the



Boiketlong Project houses in North West Province

beneficiary will complete a subsidy application form, which will be submitted by the bank to the National Housing Finance corporation for consideration and approval.

The process for the NHFC to consider and approve the application will take a maximum of seven working days, and after the process the National Implementing agent will then dispatch the subsidy to the seller or via the accredited bank with consideration from the Provincial Human Settlements Department. The dispatched money or subsidy can help to reduce the mortgage bond of the purchased house.

The qualification criteria dictates that the subsidy amount allocated to beneficiaries will depend on the income level of the qualifying beneficiary. Beneficiaries will qualify for a subsidy of between R10 000 and R87 000 for a property to be financed to the value of and not exceeding R300 000 purchase price. The qualifying beneficiary must be a South African citizen who is competent to contractual agreement, 18 years of age and with a valid identity document. Beneficiaries should be single and living with financial dependents, married or cohabiting and not have received a government housing subsidy before or owned a house.



Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mr Clifford Motsepe MEC for CoGHSTA, and Mr Danny Jordaan with the victorious Limpopo Team

Prestigious award for Limpopo for excelling in service delivery

Boitumelo Nthabo

The Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) has shown that it is the best when it scooped the award for best service delivery department at the National Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards.

The efforts of this department couldn't go unnoticed, hence the honour and the recognition they received at the Govan Mbeki Awards. The prize went to these loyal partners for excelling in making it possible for the department to deliver upon its mandate in the past year. These are women and men who have laboured hard, paid attention to detail, loved the output of their work and demanded nothing else but excellence.

The department won a cash prize of R2 million, and a certificate and trophy after it had beaten its counterpart provinces Gauteng and Eastern Cape. It also managed



Anglo Platinum, 'Each-One-Settle-One' project house in Northam, Limpopo

to build no less than 20 000 houses in partnership with Anglo Platinum mine through the national 'Each-One-Settle-One' campaign that won them the merit award.

Upon receiving the awards, Limpopo MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Clifford Motsepe said the award came at a time when there were doubts about what was happening in the province and praised his department for being crowned for the second time in a row after the department had won in the same category in the year 2008. This success can be traced back to several partnerships and programmes that this province effectively embarked upon.

The achievements of Limpopo in the development of human settlements are significant in the celebrations of the legacy of the late struggle hero Govan Mbeki, as he also played a significant role in changing the living conditions of the poor people and thus improving human settlements by partnering with key stakeholders in order to further the cause of building a nation free of inequalities.

The awards that Limpopo had won should motivate all stakeholders in the housing industry to harness human and other resources in accelerating housing delivery to improve the lives of millions of people, especially the poor of the country.



Seshego Community Residential Units

It is not just a coincidence that Raesetja Property Developers from Limpopo also received first runner-up prize for the Seshego Community Residential Unit (CRU) under the category Best Rental Stock Project.

It is also worth acknowledging that such dedication and determination demonstrated by all role players collaborating with government in the housing value chain will build sustainable human settlements and make the Millennium Development Goals achievable by 2014.

Addressing members of the media, MEC Motsepe audaciously testified to his department's commitment to delivery of quality houses to the people of Limpopo and making a meaningful contribution to sustainable human settlements, not to mention the fact that the Limpopo Department of Human Settlements could also boast of its clean audit amongst all other provinces.



Ms Malebo Magasa receiving her best contractor award

Excellent woman contractor gets rewarded

Tebogo Mphahlele

Women contractors and youth developers were amongst those who were honoured by Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale at the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards ceremony that was held at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Gauteng. Malebo Magasa of Tawana Business Projects was honoured as Best Woman Contractor.

Tawana Business Projects is a black, women-owned company that has been in the construction business for over 8 years. Malebo Magasa founded Tawana Business Projects (Pty) Ltd in 2003. The company has been involved in remodelling of homes, from small residential houses to managing big projects.

The Rustenburg born Magasa was overjoyed when she was announced as the winner in the Best Woman Contractor category, an award coming with a prize of R1 000 000 and a laptop.

**MERIT AWARD: BEST
WOMAN CONTRACTOR**



Houses built by Tawana Business Project

Tawana Business Projects was responsible for building the fifty houses in Rasimone Village in Rustenburg at a value of R3,5 million, during the 2009 Women's Build. This is one of the projects that Magasa's company completed.

Fannie Motsumi from Bojanala District Municipality praised Magasa as one of the best contractors that the municipality has worked with: 'She is one of those contractors that you are confident will deliver. In the past we had used other contractors who were not able to cope with the job and Malebo came to their rescue and took over the projects.'

Minister Sexwale bestowed honour on all nominees and praised them for a well-deserved prize which they earned by going the extra mile in the process of delivery. In the context of delivery challenges that Tawana Business Projects overcame, it was fitting for Minister to describe this award as recognising a special kind of excellence around the most basic need of shelter.

Malebo Magasa's winning of the award will probably set her up for greater opportunities in the building sector. Being a woman in a male-dominated sector is a challenge as the majority of male counterparts still think that they are superior and should only be emulated by women. But efforts of this company have contributed towards a constructive and healthy mindset by male counterparts, thus making them realise that women are not just subjects but partners in the delivery of human settlements.

Tawana Business Projects is a force to be reckoned with and its consistent growth from strength to strength deserves support and encouragement. Hence, the awards had to make special mention of these women in order to encourage all other women of this country not to hesitate to house the people of Mzantsi.



The Ethekwini Municipality team celebrating their achievement

Ethekwini Municipality: The best performing metropolitan municipality in the country

Lebohang Nakana

The provision of basic services and housing, and the effective and efficient management of allocated funds afforded the Ethekwini municipality an opportunity to scoop the Best Performing Metropolitan Municipality Award during the glittering Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards recently held at Gallagher Estate, Midrand, Gauteng.

The accolade came after the Municipality was named the best service delivery metro in the country. It was presented with a R600 000 cheque, a laptop, a certificate and a golden trophy that bears the name of the African National congress stalwart, Oom Govan Mbeki to bestow recognition to the municipality for working towards building sustainable human settlements for the people of Ethekwini.

**MERIT AWARD:
BEST METRO**



Lakehaven, a decent safe place to live and play

Despite the challenges faced by this Municipality, its Housing unit has managed to deliver far better in comparison to its category contenders, which included the City of Cape Town and the buzzing city of Johannesburg. The Municipality outperformed all the other metros in the country. The award came during a challenging season, but despite the allegations relating to unsatisfactory audits and financial maladministration earlier this year, this metro tenaciously pulled through.

The chairperson of the Human Settlements and Infrastructure Portfolio Committee, Cllr Nigel Gumede said they were pleased that the municipality had been recognised for its achievements despite the challenges experienced in the Housing unit. 'Our ultimate goal is to build houses in all folds, and we are not just building houses but human settlements', said Gumede.

During the awards, the Mayor, James Nxumalo said that Ethekewini Municipality was the best municipality in terms of housing and service delivery in the country. The municipality has budgeted to deliver 8 500 housing units in the 2012/13 financial year. He further said the municipality was working hard to restore its record of delivering over 16 000 houses per annum.

During the ceremony, Minister Tokyo Sexwale said: 'As much as a lot still needs to be done to eliminate the stubborn housing backlog in our country which amounts to above 2 million housing units required by around 12 million people, as people walk and drive across the length and breadth of the country, they are beginning to see real change.' He further congratulated all the participants, awardees and everyone who helped to reach this milestone:

'These are women and men who have laboured hard, paid attention to details, loved the output of their work and demanded nothing else but excellence.'



The Thuthela Bogolo project team celebrates with Minister Sexwale

Award urges more hard work

Sentebaleng Shiko

Cheers and ululations echoed in the Gallagher Estate Hall as the name Thuthela Bogolo was called out to accept an award for the Best Contractor in the Non-subsidy Project.

During the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards ceremony, the company's Chief Executive Officer, Rachele Els marvelled at the announcement. She said: 'This comes as a humbling experience, as we never set out building houses with the intention of receiving any awards.'

'Being nominated for the Govan Mbeki Award was perhaps one of the greatest honours to be bestowed upon our company. But to be recognised for something that we really believed in was overwhelming', she added. The Free State-based company which currently has about 170 employees, walked away with a R100 000 cash voucher.

**MERIT AWARD:
BEST CONTRACTOR:
NON-SUBSIDY MARKET**



Beneficiaries enjoying the sunshine outside their neat house in Maqhekung

The awards are aimed at showcasing and demonstrating excellent work done, with special emphasis on the department's programmes, and to further promote best practices in the delivery of the core mandate.

Addressing the audience, the Department of Human Settlements Minister, Tokyo Sexwale said: 'We have been enthusiastic and welcoming the good work and positive developments around Human Settlements, as is demonstrated by the presence of all of us at this function for the recognition of excellence.' However, Sexwale emphasised the proper use of public funds and sent a word of caution to shoddy contractors.

Much like the minister's disdain at the quality of some of the houses that were previously built, Els said that their company are of the opinion that, 'Better quality houses need to be built for previously disadvantaged people.' 'Our company's motto from day one was, "Build a house anyone will be proud to call a home". In conclusion, Els said the award would motivate them to keep up the hard work and come back next year doing even better. She attributes all their success to the joint effort and fantastic team supporting her.



The excited Northern Cape Team receiving their award

Northern Cape walks away with a whopping prize

Pompi Thobakgale

When the National Department of Human Settlements identified numerous informal settlement upgrading projects (ISUP) as priority projects in the Northern Cape, the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs immediately went on the ground to ensure that much progress was achieved and projects completed without compromising on quality. These priority projects are both in rural and urban areas, namely:

- Colesberg (Outboks)
- Kimberley (Lerato Park)
- Upington
- John Taolo Gaetsewe
- Pampierstad

**MERIT AWARD: MOST
CONSISTENT PROVINCE**



Among the province's achievements, 2 739 homes were delivered, 2 134 sites were serviced, the planning and surveying of 945 sites was completed, and 462 poorly built houses were rectified. The department also ensured that all 2 739 beneficiaries of houses received Title Deeds. The department continued to link human settlement development to job creation, skills development, poverty reduction and local economic development in order to build sustainable human settlements.

The human settlements unit in the province developed the Provincial Planning Framework and Urban and Rural Development Strategies for municipalities to operate within. They also facilitated the provision of housing, infrastructure and

services within the Integrated Development Plans of municipalities, processed applications relating to land development, land use management, housing, and infrastructure projects to approval stages.

Learning from the past, the department upscaled its inspection of houses being built, ensured enrolment of its human settlements projects with the National Home Builders' Registration Council (NHBR) and saw to it that defaulting contractors were dealt with in terms of the law. This was done to further strive to make sure that quality was not compromised. The department, with the determination to ensure transparency and clean governance, dealt with reported allegations of corruption and irregularities at various municipalities.

Despite the limited financial resources, the Northern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs will, in the course of 2012/2013, continue to accelerate delivery of human settlements through the upgrading of informal settlements and rural housing development.

As part of facilitating the implementation of integrated sustainable human settlements, the Department:

- Assisted all municipalities in preparing for municipal housing sector plans, which also included the roll-out of the National Housing Needs web-based system, commonly known as the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR).
- Assisted municipalities with the valuation of properties.
- Awarded 10 scholarships to support and strengthen the aspirations of young people who are interested in pursuing undergraduate studies in housing and construction related fields.
- Mobilised and trained women to participate in the construction and management of housing development projects because the empowerment of women is fundamental to sustainable human settlements development.

For these reasons the Northern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs walked away with a Merit Award as the most Consistent Province of the Year at the National Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards.



Mr Jake Letsapa (HR Manager: Housing), Mr Ravi Pillay (MEC KZN Human Settlement), Ms Khanyisile Kweyama (EH:Human Resources), Mr Papillon Motshwenyane (Senior Manager: Group Housing) and Mr Neville Nicolau (Former CEO: Anglo American Platinum)

Anglo American Platinum are committed

Tseleng Mokgotu

Anglo American Platinum Limited (Amplats) is committed to funding the building of 20 000 housing units for employees over a 10-year period through its Employer Assisted Housing Scheme. The overall investment in this project is approximately R1.4 billion, which is part of Amplats' broader contribution to building sustainable human settlements. The scheme promotes home ownership and is an effort to integrate Amplats' labour force with communities close to its mines.

Amplats has heeded the call by the Minister of Human Settlements, Tokyo Sexwale for corporate and blue-chip companies to help with housing needs of South Africans. Amplats has responded by announcing that it would build 20 000 houses for its employees in Limpopo and the North West, starting with the Northam Extension 6 housing project in Thabazimbi Municipality.

On 28 November 2011, Amplats was pleased to unveil the Northam Extension 6 housing unit show houses in embracing the Department of Human Settlement's 'Each-One-Settle-One' campaign.

The Northam Extension 6 housing project is the second such project for Amplats. The first was the commitment Amplats made in 2008 to build 1 000 units in Seraleng, Rustenburg where more than 200 families have already moved into their new homes.

The Northam project includes feasibility studies, partnering with the municipality in the building of the waste-water treatment plant; the construction of 310 housing units; construction of access roads; and bulk water infrastructure within the communities. The show houses consist of four typologies: a 50m², 58m², 66m² or 76m² housing unit for employees to choose from.

Neville Nicolau, Chief Executive Officer of Anglo American Platinum Limited said: 'We are pleased with this partnership as it is aligned with the government's plan for the development of sustainable human settlements, while we are also providing adequate housing and sustainable integration of our employees in communities around our operations.'

Their specific role in and contribution to this project is that they are committed to contributing positively to development in South Africa, especially development within their mine host communities. The previous structure of mines relied on using hostels to accommodate its workers. Recently there have been efforts to condense these living quarters to two people per room. On the contrary, Anglo American Platinum went beyond these expectations and are promoting home ownership by their employees to ensure that they have a valuable asset in the form of a home. They embarked on the housing development programme in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, and this partnership will make possible the implementation of the housing programme that will ensure the delivery of 20 000 housing units in the next 5 to 7 years.

'Partnership with the Department of Human Settlements was critical in making this a success. Most of our employees who need houses do not qualify for the RDP subsidies, and through the partnership with Human Settlements the subsidies are



Another beautiful Amplats "Each-One-Settle-One" project house in Northam, Limpopo

extended to our employees and we as the company also provide our own home ownership subsidy. In this way the employees are able to afford decent housing. There is also constant engagement with our employees and the programme works on a pull rather than push approach – the employee has to apply for a house rather than us building houses with the hope that employees will want them,' said Mr Nicolau.

The challenges that Amplats has encountered during this project are that although the employees received the subsidies which allow them to afford to pay for the houses, they also need to be credit worthy. Amplats has been instrumental in assisting some of the employees to acquire the credit standing necessary to qualify for funding by financial institutions.

What motivates Mr Nicolau is being able to contribute positively to the development of living conditions in South Africa and having the opportunity to contribute to the positive transformation of the mining industry.

Amplats has a number of development projects in its host communities that are aimed at improving development in Education, Health, Enterprise Development, Skills Development and Infrastructure Development. The housing project is located within their integrated sustainable development programme.



Houses in Sunrise View, developed by Impala Platinum

Mr Nicolau is a mining engineer by profession and in addition to his passion for mining he has a broad understanding of and best interest in programmes that change lives of employees in mines and communities in the mining environments. The Amplats programmes aim to deliver more than 5 000 homes to its employees by 2014, through the promotion and facilitation of its home-ownership plan.

Mr Nicolau's message to the youth and females who want to venture into this industry: 'The mining industry of today is very different from that of the past. The level of transformation, the opportunities available and the career paths available mean that this has become an industry where all can make a positive contribution. We have an extensive 'women in mining' programme and are creating an environment where all our employees, including women, can experience a positive and fulfilling work life. Come join us and be part of the transformation of the mining industry!'



The LG Construction team receiving their Merit Award as best Youth Contractor

A journey of making a difference in deprived communities

Botshelo Selogilwe

The first house they built was for an 87-year-old grandmother who lived in a leaking shack for many years. This is how the journey of putting a smile on someone's face began for young building contractors in the Eastern Cape.

Moreover, this became the reason they worked hard to bring the joy of having a shelter to many families in their province. Their quality work earned them the Best Youth Contractor of the Year Award at the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards 2012.

This occasion recognises those who have accelerated service delivery and made a difference in empowering poor communities, and where role players across the



A house built in Moses Mabida, Kirkwood, Eastern Cape

human settlements spectrum go beyond the call of duty by pulling up their sleeves to to build flourishing communities and thus serve serve struggling families.

'Working together we can do more' was the spirit that resonated during the event as different winners ascended the stage to receive awards for their excellent work.

Thandokazi Ndamane, Project Manager for LG Construction, who was the winner of the Best Youth Contractor category, said that by their example they hoped to inspire young people around the country to get into the construction industry although it was perceived as a difficult field.

'We walked a long journey to achieve this award; it was a challenge to build in a province such as the Eastern Cape as we had to drive a distance to fetch water before building the houses,' said Ndamane.



'We have completed building 150 units in Mbizana and this was an R11 million project. We hope to do more projects to change the lives of our people,' Ndamane added.

For a moment, one understood why these awards had to be named after Govan Mbeki, the teacher and warrior who believed in building good partnerships to change the lives of poor communities.

His footprints motivated sustainable partnerships with municipalities, Human Settlements provincial departments and private stakeholders to accelerate service delivery in deprived communities around the country.

'We will proceed from the understanding that human settlement is not just about building houses. It is about changing our cities and towns and building cohesive and caring communities with closer access to work and social amenities such as sports and recreation facilities,' Minister Sexwale said.

'In their productive lives, people perform all kinds of chores to make their living conditions better. While some opt to first take care of themselves, others prefer to first extend a helping hand to their fellow men. Such people deserve recognition,' said Minister Sexwale, referring to the winners of the awards.



Minister Sexwale with the four best Human Settlements' bursary students: Nicole Marillier, Sello Olifants, Kwazelele Mcetywa and Godfrey Mahlangu

From humble beginnings to greater heights

Busisiwe Khumalo

Nomhle Beauty Mcetywa's pension money helped educate her son Kwazelele Mcetywa to become a civil engineer after his father passed on in 2004. Coupled with this is an essay that catapulted him to obtain a Department of Human Settlements bursary in 2009 after having responded to a newspaper advert in Bisho in the Eastern Cape in September 2006. Now, he holds a National Diploma in Civil Engineering with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, having obtained this in 2011 with 18 distinctions.

His interest into civil engineering began when he was a child, fascinated by the under-developed settlements and infrastructure whilst growing up in a small rural village. When he was still a boy, Kwazelele frequently told himself that he would one

**MERIT AWARD:
BEST BURSAR STUDENT**



day study engineering and go back to his village to assist with improving the living conditions of his community.

He does not have any specific role models but says he is forever inspired by engineers who are studying intensively in the field because 'I believe that as a human being, one must never stop studying'. His ambition and dreams are also being fulfilled by the mere fact that his family supports him with his choice of career and are very proud of him and believes in him. He also says that his mother does not stop singing praises about the assistance rendered to him by the Department of Human Settlements which also translates in him now helping the family, as he is now working for the municipality.

Basically, he sees himself as a jack of all trades because while working for the municipality, he gets involved and exposed to all aspects of human settlements such as water, sanitation, roads, storm water, housing, land use management, electricity, etc.

Kwazelele has some wise words for aspiring civil engineers: 'Be passionate, study hard and be willing to go the extra mile. Never feel threatened by challenges. Instead, enjoy resolving them.' He would like to inspire his future generation to pursue studies in civil engineering which is one of the professions in high demand as very few South Africans are skilled in it. He adds that other professions that have to do with other types of engineering, technologists and technicians are also in high demand in South Africa.

Though presently working for the municipality as a Project Management Unit Technician, he dreams of owning and running an engineering consulting firm sometime in the future. Kwazelele has also worked for contractors in a number of projects, gaining some valuable experience whilst a student technician and now also as a fully fledged technician.

Kwazelele still wants to study further and enrich his knowledge and skills in the civil engineering profession. In conclusion, he would like to encourage more youth to venture into the civil engineering profession as a career path.



Ms Nicole Marillier being congratulated by Minister Sexwale, with MEC Motsepe looking on

Nicole Marillier Shines

Busisiwe Khumalo

Reading has paid fat dividends for architect Nicole Marillier, the youngest of three children who hails from the Eastern Cape province and is now holding a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Studies. Out of the nine provinces in South Africa, she and three other students, that is, Kwazelele Mcetywa, also from the Eastern Cape, Godfrey Mahlangu from the North West and Sello Olifants from Gauteng, passed their final examinations last year with flying colours.

She now works for Thembela Architects in Bisho in the Eastern Cape province, she responded to a newspaper advert from the Human Settlements Department for bursaries in the Build Environment which, among others, include land surveying, building, quantity surveying, etc. Having graduated last year with 18 distinctions, her goal is to go back to school for a Masters Degree in Architecture so that she could become a registered professional architect. She has had a passion for the Build Environment since she was at high school, especially the modelling of form and spatial relations.



Presently, she is involved on a daily basis with various projects for Thembela Architects. Among these are the construction documentation process, site inspections, meetings with clients and more. She exudes a lot of confidence and 'first and foremost, I have a passion for the build environment'. She quickly points out that architecture is hard work but very rewarding.

Nicole's parents are her biggest supporters, from when she started studying up till now. Her mother is her greatest inspiration and number one role model, though her mom did not matriculate she is quite passionate about education, always motivating her children to do their best and she has always shown unconditional love. Her mother was the eldest in a family of eight children and had to leave school early in order to work and help support all the other siblings. Nicole and her older sister still lives at home with her parents. Her brother is married and living in his own house. Her dream is to one day design her own home and maybe make changes to her parents' home.

This down-to-earth lady also hopes that one day she will be able to pass on her skills and experience to young aspiring architects. Nicole believes that there is a great future for architects but they must bear in mind that like any other industry, there are ups and downs, but 'I believe that there will always be a need for building work one way or the other'. She would like to see more females within the architectural industry, even though the process of including more women is already underway.

Without any doubt, her roots are embedded in her beloved South Africa, but she would like to work abroad for at least two years to gain more experience about different cultures whilst she is still young and single. This focused, go-getter is doing her best to gain as much experience as possible, hoping to one day work for herself or obtain shares in an architectural company company.



In addition to receiving a trophy and a certificate, the four best bursary students were rewarded with sponsored price money of R25 000 each

Clear vision supersedes all odds

Busisiwe Khumalo

'We are living in an ever-changing era where the future is sometimes uncertain and therefore, working together towards a common vision or preferred future helps in reducing uncertainties.'

These are the wise words from a graduate in the National Diploma in Regional and Town Planning, Sello Olifants who simply prefers to call himself a public servant. He wishes for an environment where every public or private professional and other stakeholders could approach challenges or issues in a collaborative manner, where viewpoints are genuinely shared in order to help bring about a diversity of ways of living and thinking, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity.



Sello is one of the Department of Human Settlements' bursary recipients who received a Merit Award pocketing R25 000, a trophy and a certificate for being the best male student in his field. He is currently studying towards a BTech in Town and Regional Planning with the University of Johannesburg. He wants to acquire a Doctorate Degree within ten years and wishes to be a part-time lecturer so that he will be able to share his experience and skills. Sello supports a Students' Fellowship Initiative, where schools, churches, and an orphanage in Soweto are annually visited to conduct career guidance sessions and a general sharing of information and knowledge regarding university, technikon and FET (Further Education and Training) Colleges.

Coming from a single-parent home did not deter him from pursuing his dreams of one day graduating in Town and Regional Planning. It was, however, not smooth sailing as he first studied through a loan from National Student Financial Aid (NSFA) and from 2009 with a Department of Human Settlements bursary whilst in his first year of study at the University of Johannesburg. Thanks to the support of his two uncles who made sure that he continued with his education after the death of his mother, Tinah Olifant in 2007, as well as the bursary, the rest as the saying goes, is history.

His sisters as well as some community members supported him during tough times. He has a few role models who inspire him in different ways, one of them being Sibusiso Leope, popularly known as DJ Sbu who likes to give back to the community and constantly assists people with some potential to realise their dreams. 'Pressa, Phusha, Phanda towards your vision' is one of DJ Sbu's mottos which he has emulated. He says he is fascinated by Sbu's humble personality, hunger for success, a man with no restricting boundaries and who has great respect for the public. A man who helps to motivate youth to venture into higher institutions of learning and into business. As a fellow philanthropist, Sello relates very much to DJ Sbu's background.



Minister Sexwale and Provincial MEC's congratulating the four Best Bursary Students

Civil engineering from grandfather to father to son

Busisiwe Khumalo

Budding civil engineer Godfrey Mahlangu who obtained 36 distinctions in 2011 from the Durban University of Technology through the Human Settlements' bursary believes that 'Government must establish anti-corruption structures in all the three spheres of governance for better service delivery'. It is his belief that rooting out corruption and the introduction of appropriate technology could help government a great deal to design and monitor projects in an effective and efficient way.

The sky is not the limit for Mahlangu who in ten years' time, wishes to see himself at the helm as a Technical Director at either one of the government institutions or at his own company. He is still living at home with his father Patrick, two sisters Mapule and Nthabiseng, and little brother Neo. Sadly, his mother passed away in 2005.

According to this go-getter, some people have a calling for certain things or missions and others have a passion for some disciplines. His motto is that people should



rely on self-discipline, perseverance, dedication and they should stay focused in achieving their goals.

For him, civil engineering is a calling and a profession that has been in the veins of the Mahlangu family for three generations. His grandfather, Albert Mahlangu was the best civil engineering foreman in his time, even though he never went to university due to the Apartheid era. He transferred his skills to Godfrey's father, Patrick Mahlangu.

Godfrey's family history inspired him to become 'the best Human Settlements sponsored student' by graduating with 36 distinctions from the Durban University of Technology with a National Diploma in Civil Engineering. In July 2012 he will be enrolling for BTech at the Tshwane University of Technology to specialise in urban engineering. Although he enjoys water engineering as well as transportation engineering, he is quick to add that it is not possible to master all eight fields of specialisation. Mahlangu plans to use the R25 000 Merit Award that he received to pay for furthering his studies. He believes that, 'life has two routes to choose from, either to enjoy life whilst one is a student and suffer later in one's adult life or suffer as a student and enjoy life later knowing that one is now qualified, something no one can take away.'

He wants to make a difference in his community and believes that civil engineering – which is broad and also one of the scarce professions in South Africa – would help him achieve greater heights. It is one of the disciplines that demand hard work, an inquisitive and positive mind as well as teamwork. Godfrey is keen to pass on the civil engineering skills and knowledge, time permitting. The National Department of Human Settlements placed him as a Candidate Civil Engineer with the North West Department of Human Settlements. He is one of six students who studied with the aid of a departmental bursary and who are now working for a Provincial Department as part of a plough-back initiative.