



MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Chairperson

Minister Tokyo Sexwale

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Hon. Dambuza

Honourable Members of Parliament and honoured guests

I greet you this afternoon. May I also extend a word of welcome to the Director-General, Thabane Zulu and his team including Chairpersons and CEOs' of our housing institutions. Let me greet Mme Mildred Ramokaba-Lesia and Hudley King.

Allow me, Chairperson to greet the people of Dunoon, who are linked to us through a screen Halala Dunoon Halala.

This budget vote is taking place at the time when we are marking 20 years of the brutal death of the late Cde Chris Hani, May his soul rest in peace. It is also taking place when we are celebrating the 30 years of the formation of the United Democratic Front.

Allow me Chairperson to pass condolences to the family of Vuyo Mbuli, May His Soul Rest in Peace. He has left flowers behind, he left them in bloom.

On the 19th of June we will be marking 100 years of the Native Land Act of 1913 whose legacy is haunting us even as we speak.

Our role as the department is to provide houses to the poorest of the poor. Those who earn between 0 and 3 500 get free subsidy housing from government. This is indeed a mammoth task as we try to reach out to as many beneficiaries as we can. The main challenge is the fact that housing is a moving target. The more we deliver on this mandate many more expectations are created as all eligible households wants their houses now but the funding and our capacity to deliver at economies of scale leaves much to be desired.

Housing is a right enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Chapter 2, Section 26 of the Bill of Rights says on housing.

Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. No one may be evicted from their home or have their home demolished without an order of the court made after considering all relevant circumstances. No legislation may permit arbitrary evictions.

The Freedom Charter adopted in Kliptown in 1955 puts the issue of housing as one of the rights that must be enjoyed by the people of this country. It says “There shall be houses security and comfort”.

The Department of Human Settlements has made great strides in the provision of housing to the most needy in our society. Underpinning the new housing vision is the creation of sustainable human settlements with access to social and economic amenities. The delivery of sustainable human settlements requires a collaboration of all relevant departments and the private sector. We need public private partnership, the PPP. Apartheid spatial patterns continue to weigh down efforts towards creating

sustainable settlements that facilitates access to opportunities, promote safety and security. This is exacerbated by the lack of well located land, capacity constraints in areas such as planning and implementation amongst others continues to be experienced.

In January this year at a workshop convened by the Portfolio Committee we deliberated at length on these issues. The fact that we still have houses with no schools, no clinics, no social amenities and nor roads is a problem. Chairperson last weekend I visited George and did door-to-door work. It was shocking to realise that George Municipality does not have a housing plan. This is a DA controlled municipality. There is no adherence to norms and standards in the building of houses. There are houses built 5 years ago. They have no walls to separate rooms, they are full of cracks. This despite the fact that the comprehensive plan has been in place since 2004. In fact there is family which has 19 shacks and no sanitation provided. Blind person lives in a house which was one gutted by fire with no water and electricity, no ramp. In one section 60 families have been promised houses 14years ago. Each time they inquire about progress, they are told to wait for a surprise.

This is unacceptable as this community has retired artisans, plumbers, bricklayers who are prepared to build each others homes through PHP if they can be assisted. This area is also suitable for in-situ upgrading. You ask yourself why the rectification programme is not used to fix houses whose walls are cracking. These people are living in squalor conditions. On Saturday I attended a funeral of one year old Bradley. May His Soul Rest In Peace. It means that here the infant mortality rate is high.

I have promised the people of George to return and engage the municipality on their housing plan. Secondly, we will rebuild the house of the blind person with the assistance of the Department of Correctional Services.

Integrated Human Settlements calls upon us to work together, to budget together to plan together. It has no room for departments or spheres of governments to work in silos. It means that we must believe and understand the policies that we are mandated to implement at all levels.

This dream is being realised on the green paper on Human Settlement that is being crafted which speaks to what kind of settlements we want. The green paper itself is the review of the existing policy in order to deal with the gaps that have been identified. We hope to complete this process in this current year.

One of the areas that continue to confront us is the issue of fires and floods. Particularly fires in the Western Cape. There were fires in Dunoon, just last week a disabled child was burned to death. May His Soul Rest in Peace, which affected more than 300 shacks, there were fires in Stellenbosch which affected +/- 500 and Khayelitsha 779 shacks burnt down leaving +/- 3 000 people homeless. Department of Social Development through SASSA, Department of Home Affairs and the South African Police Service played a leading role in assisting these families to restore their lives. 8 families lost their lives. The Khayelitsha families were housed at OR Tambo Hall.

Allow me Chairperson to thank all those from the communities who assisted those families more in

particular the priests and service providers. I was very happy when I visited the hall at the end of April to realise that not a single person was at the hall but we will continue to monitor this situation until the 800 families are housed at BOSASA in October as this was a promise made by the three spheres of government to the State President, Mr. Jacob Zuma when he visited the families after the State of the Nation Address in February 2013.

The Khayelitsha Development Forum and Crisis Committee who assisted the fire victims requested the Department of Human Settlements to hold a summit. It was held on the 21st of March 2013, Human Rights Day which came up with a declaration that need implementation.

As government we are committed to eradicate the bucket system as of yesterday. South Africa as a country has met MDG targets of halving sanitation backlog. The only dilemma is that despite this success we are unable to provide universal access. Hence there are still millions of people without access to decent sanitation. As it was the case with Makhaza and Moqhaka. As department we were invited to the public hearings of Humans Right

Commission to respond on progress relating to Makhaza and Moqhaka toilet saga.

We welcomed the opportunity of appearing before the chapter 9 of institution with both hands. We made the following input:

The National Department of Human Settlements is one of the key departments of state which contributes to the eradication of water and sanitation backlogs in our country.

Since 1994 the department has through its various programmes provided approximately 2,8 million households with water and sanitation. In this regard it is important to emphasise that provision has been to a household level.

During this current political term we have as a department committed to provide 400 000 Household with access to basic services as well as well located land with security of tenure.

Our department is also in collaboration with the department of Co-operative Governance, Water Affairs and the Presidency taking steps to ensure that communities have 100% access to water and sanitation.

We are extremely proud of the fact that in 2011/2012 financial year we introduced the Urban Settlement Development Grant. The grant is allocated to the ten metropolitan Municipalities in our country where the largest backlog in water and sanitation exists.

The Urban Settlement Development Grant focuses on the eradication of services backlogs in urban areas paying more attention to poor household who may live in informal settlements.

As department we are in constant contact with municipalities and provinces to ensure that monies are allocated to the identified priorities and outcomes. We have not yet achieved the required prioritization to eradicate the backlogs.

We also as department have in place the Rural Household Infrastructure programme which is aimed at eradicating the water and sanitation backlogs in the rural areas.

Our levels of performance have not been satisfactory and steps taken to address this state of affairs.

It is also important to remember that Minister Sexwale during the course of 2011 commissioned a team to look at the state of Household access to sanitation and the report of the team has been translated into the Strategic Infrastructure project 18 (SIP18) focusing on the implementation of Sanitation and Water Masterplan. The monitoring of this falls under that Presidential Infrastructure CO-ordinating Committee which reports to President Zuma.

As department we have taken the issue of job creation seriously. We believe that the building of houses must not only guarantee the security of tenure but also lead to breaking of poverty cycle. Hence job creation becomes critical.

We had in this regard collaborated with other departments in order to make this dream a reality. We are partnering with the Department of Labour on job creation initiatives; Department of Public Enterprise has indicated the interest to work with us on fires and floods including Career Expos. We will work with department of Trade and Industry on Housing co-operative. We intend to work closely with Correctional Service as part of offender rehabilitation by building houses for the destitute. We will work closely with the Department of Higher Education as far as Setas are concerned. In this process we have drawn in strategic Setas such as construction Seta, Merseta, Service Seta, Energy Seta, Tourism Seta, Chieta Seta and Food and Beverages. Our aim is to ensure that housing delivery is linked to job creation opportunities and career guidance. This is so because we believe if young people have access to jobs they will not queue for housing. They will buy and rent houses on their own. This is also about sustainable livelihood. In which local economy is a critical ingredient of Social Cohesion. It is about empowerment of communities.

On the 8th of June we will be handing over a house which was gutted by fire and repaired by the CEO of Viridi Homes, Mr Manas Mabitsela. On the same day we will also be having a Career Expo at Langa High School targeting +/-2000 learners. We will also be cleaning the school as part of commemorating June 16. We will be having Youth Build across provinces.

Madam Chairperson we will continue to work with South African Women in Construction (SAWIC), Fed-up, Homeless People's federation, and other CBO's in improving the plight of women. I still believe that houses built by women are of better quality. We have noticed with concern that in this financial year there has been a decline in terms of no of houses built by women lead contractors, as well as houses built through PHP. This state of affairs is not acceptable. We have to pull up our socks and continue to give opportunities to these courageous women. If it is about capacity let us join hands and capacitate them. Enhanced PHP is policy of government has to be implemented. Houses built through PHP are never sold and are far bigger.

On the issue of housing for Military Veterans. There has been a progress. Minmec has approved the implementation plan. The memorandum of understanding has been signed by the two departments. Namely the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Military Veterans. We have received database from Military Veterans. It has been screened through HSS-Housing Security System. The verified list has been sent to provinces for implementation. We will have the first Military Veterans build this year in Queenstown.

Chairperson, in September we attended the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum held in Napoli, Italy. The theme of the conference was “urban future”. This reflects that the future of humanity is urban. In November we attended a Slum upgrading Conference in Morocco. Whose theme was “making Slums History”. This conference reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goal 7. We also resolved to commit ourselves in establishing entities such as urban forums or habitat committees to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue with wide range of stakeholders in preparation for Habitat III Conference and the new Global Housing Strategy.

We are happy to report that we have established the urban forum in South Africa.

We have been attending African Minister's Conference in Housing and Urban Development meetings in Uganda and Kenya as South Africa is the member of the AMCHUD Bureau. We have also taken part in 24th Session of UN Habitat Governing Council meeting that took place in April in Nairobi, Kenya. South Africa now is a member of the Governing Council.

Chairperson, let me acknowledge the Memorandum of understanding we are having with the Government of Netherlands. The support they gave us with building of Drommedaris. Also the support we got from Denmark on Sola water geysers.

I THANK YOU