



MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Chairperson,
Minister Lindiwe Sisulu,
Minister Nomvula Mokonyane,
Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete,
Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services,
Hon. Dlamini;

MEC's

Honorable Members and all honoured guests,
Director-General of Human Settlements, Mbulelo
Tshangana and other senior officials

Allow me to greet you all this afternoon.

This policy debate is taking place at the time when we are marking milestones in our history namely the 40th anniversary of the 1976 Student Uprising and the 60th anniversary of the March of 20 000 women to the Union Buildings.

As the department we have taken these historic moments very seriously. That is why we have a youth build and a youth brigade programme whose objective is to make sure that young people continue to build on this legacy and build young contractors.

On the women front we have the women's build programme which aims at building 1956 housing units in each province. We have also set aside 30% of capital budget for women contractors.

It is important to note that Government has made significant strides in the area of provision of shelter to those in need. To date we have delivered over 4.3 million houses and housing opportunities since 1994. But despite this success story, clearly, a lot more still needs to be done.

Ladies and gentlemen housing is a moving target, the more we build the more people need houses.

One of our important delivery instruments is the enhanced housing people's process programme, popularly known as PHP. This important Housing Programme affords communities a chance to participate in the building of their own houses and the product is much better when the Community takes Ownership of the project.

Research has also shown that this programme is an important tool in forging and enhancing Social Cohesion.

The research further shows that most of the Houses built through this Community Housing Programme are never sold willy-nilly by their Owners, as they have contributed sweat equity towards the construction of their Own Houses and Homes.

We have also said in many budget vote speeches that housing cannot be a responsibility of government alone. We need to forge partnerships with the private sector, CBOs, NGOs and most importantly the beneficiaries themselves.

The implementation of EPHP is in line with Government's vision as well as the National Development Plan, both emphasising the need to adopt a people centred and active citizenry approach in the delivery of services. Through the implementation of the EPHP programme we were able to achieve the following.

- Building cohesive communities that partner with government and other stakeholders.
- People are beginning to take charge of their own development.
- Enhancing local economic development.
- We will continue capacitating communities in this process.
- End result is creating of community based assets.

The delivery of the programme has enabled the department to enter into collaborative partnership with its implementation partners in order to fast track the delivery of houses.

Houses built through PHP are bigger and are of good quality.

Honorable members please allow me to mention some PHP Projects

- **KZN Province:** Vulindlela housing project is aimed at delivering 25 000 units through this programme. Thirteen (13) Human Settlements Cooperatives were established varying between construction, transport, steel fixing, window and door frames and brick making). Two-thousand and three hundred (2 300) temporary jobs were created.
- **Mpumalanga Province** delivered 2 808 PHP units. Local Contractors were utilised and close to 100 temporary jobs were created.
- In the **Eastern Cape**, 48 PHP units were delivered by the Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP), a South African SDI Alliance. The project was led by Women and local Contractors were utilised.

The finishes were top of the range and these included the installation of ceilings and aluminum windows, all units had aprons and gutters. One beneficiary with a talent in gardening and landscaping established food gardens and is landscaping all the houses.

- In the **Western Cape Province** there is one project that we can all be proud of, it is the Rondevlei PHP project which was community driven. The area was initially an informal settlement. It has a strong community leadership which is dominated by women. This collective successfully lobbied government to acquire land and services. It delivered a successful PHP project.

The project won the best PHP award during the 2014/15 Provincial Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards. The houses built here are very beautiful and of good quality. I met a 92 year mama Mrs. Sarah Sas who is the eldest beneficiary of this project and a first time home owner.

- **North West Province** delivered 190 PHP units. Ten (10) Human Settlements Cooperatives led by Women were established. Beneficiaries were trained on construction skills and they topped-up the subsidy with their savings and build 50m² units.

PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SECTOR

The department has continued to make strides in enhancing capacity initiatives in the sector by negotiating high level Strategic Partnerships with National Universities to support its professionalization drive.

During the past year, the Department has entered into a partnership with the University of Fort Hare by launching a Bachelor of Social Science in Human Settlements Degree. The Degree will focus on Social Facilitation as a key specialization academic stream. Since its launch the University has enrolled 100 students.

The Department has also partnered with the University of South Africa, the largest University on the African Continent. This partnership with a leading distance learning institution in Africa is a game changer for Human Settlements Education Programme. It opens doors to mass based and affordable education, particularly in Human Settlements sector. From 2016, UNISA will be offering a Bachelor of Administration in Human Settlements Degree. It is now for the first time possible for mid-career Professionals to take up a 3 Year Degree via online distance learning.

A significant step has been undertaken by the Publication of the first Textbook on Human Settlements Education by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

We wish to congratulate the University's Human Settlements Chapter for this ground breaking achievement. Indeed we are Breaking New Ground!

In Conclusion, Honorable members I wish to congratulate the University of Fort Hare which is celebrating its Centenary Year. Africa's Leadership was nurtured by and large by this prestigious African Institution.

I thank you