

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY CLLR NKAKARENG RAKGOALE ON BEHALF OF MEC FOR CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS IN LIMPOPO, MME MAKOMA MAKHURUPETJE ON THE OCCASION OF HANDING OVER OF A HOUSE, GA MALEMATJA, GREATER LETABA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

29th August 2016

Members of the family;
Traditional leaders
Mayor of Greater Letaba Local Municipality, Cllr Peter Matlou;
Speaker
Chief Whip
Councillors here present;
Provincial Manager of the NHRBC Ms Nurse Lydia Chabalala
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen.
Thobela

Programme director, let me start off by expressing my profound words of gratitude to the NHRBC for this wonderful gesture. I'm sure you will agree with me that for majority of South Africans a house is much more important than a place to stay - because it is a place where the body and the soul find both shelter and comfort. I'm sure this gesture by the NHRBC and the Greater Letaba Municipality will certainly go a long way in making the lives of our beneficiaries better.

What makes this gesture even more special is that the house we are handing-over will benefit most importantly the elderly as well as children. As you will all know, children and the elderly are classified in the category of persons we normally regard as the vulnerable group.

These are people who need social protection from our government to guarantee them health, safety, security, shelter and a meaningful livelihood. The contribution by NHRBC towards destitute families builds on the number of interventions that the ANC led government is already making in the form of child support grants, pension grants, no-fee schooling, free basic water and free health care.

If you were to ask us why we have chosen this family over and above other families who equally qualify for a house, our answer will be simple. We are doing this out of love and Ubuntu which are basic principles that have taught us to always prioritise the needs of those most vulnerable in our society. The indigent status of this family requires this kind of intervention. Given availability of resources, nothing will still stop us from continuing to do more for others who are in similar situations.

Our commitment to housing the poor is not a rhetorical one. Great strides in housing delivery have been made over the past 22 years. By July this year the total number of houses built and completed by this government under this Municipality came to a total of 9432 houses since 1994.

The standard set by this ANC government in housing is incomparable and far surpasses any other country in the world. As this government, our overall vision is to ensure that:

All people have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed, and are able to bring up their families in comfort and security; We also want slums demolished, and new suburbs built in their place;

We want houses to be built and located in areas where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres.

This is our vision as spelled out in the Freedom charter. This means that we are not only just interested in constructing houses, but also want to create sustainable communities as well.

Finally, as I conclude programme director, let me convey my sincere gratitude to the leadership of the new Mayor and his Council. I as well wish to thank all the sponsors, the family and stakeholders who have made this occasion a reality. Rest assured that your contribution to this project will go a long way to bring life to this community.

Working together, we can do more!
Kea leboga! Inkomu!