

# eTshumelo

## WOMEN & YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO JOIN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

August / September 2020

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Women in Construction  
Land Invasions  
Lockdown Allocations  
Fleurhof Allocations  
Mega City Profile  
End of Tent Life  
Rental Units  
FLISP

By Luzuko Pongoma

"Money is not only made in the fancy boardroom by people with laptops," says Clara Sodulashe-Mwenze, 58, from Vanderbijlpark, who is the CEO of Sike's Transport and Projects encouraging young women to join the construction industry.

"Gone are the days of sitting in nice boardrooms working on laptops, forgetting that it is the construction industry that also puts food and money on the table."

She said that young women can learn a lot from the construction industry as it had different streams within it.

"We encourage young women to know more about the brick and mortar. They must also know that there is money in this industry. Money is not only in the boardrooms; money can be made wherever," she said.

Sodulashe-Mwenze said that young women entering the industry will assist them as elders, bringing experience with technology, as the older generation of women were not exposed to it early in the careers. "Having younger women is also part of growing the existing companies and also growing their knowledge. We can excel by working with them," she said.



Clara Sodulashe-Mwenze and the Sike's Transport & Projects team

### Young Women Build For Child Headed Family

By Zandi Gamedze

Her love for community is what drives Sesethu Loyilane to improve the quality of life for the poor. She says it is not enough just to give.

It is important that there are sustainable changes in the lives of the poor, and this is why she is excited about the house that her organization, Young Women's Network Forum (YWN Forum), is building for a child-headed family in Winterveld.

The YWN Forum has built a house for 23 year old Itumeleng Mashitsho and his siblings all below the age of 18, who have been destitute since the death of their parents in 2007 and 2016 respectively.

The YWN Forum in partnership with Greenbuild SA built the Mashitsho house using Innovative Building Technology (IBT), which is faster, more efficient, and more cost-effective than traditional brick and mortar.

"With this program, we are advocating for the adoption of IBTs by communities. This will in turn establish persons with disabilities, women, and the youth with material retailers, contractors, and professionals of the green economy," said Sesethu.

Sesethu, who in 2016 was a finalist in the *Pioneer in Innovation* category of the Women in Construction Awards, noted that partnering with the Department of Human Settlements was important because giving a house is more than just providing shelter - it is about the dignity of having your own place to call home and being safe from the elements of their natural environments.



Innovative Building Technology (IBT) by Green Build SA

## Youth Urged To Be Innovative In Construction

By Luzuko Pongoma

"Young people should ensure that they come up with innovative and dynamic solutions within the construction industry as the world deals with the Covid-19 virus." These are the words of 33 year old Andiswa Xozwa, an independent consultant in the construction industry.

Xozwa, who is currently working in the City of Ekurhuleni as a project manager for the Mega Catalytic Projects, said young people should come up with inventions that will increase productivity and also upskill and capacitate the youth and women in particular.

"We also need to be aggressive in implementing Alternative Building Technologies (ABT), which will ensure quicker turnaround time in project delivery."

"The World has entered into the 4th Industrial Revolution, and the construction industry needs to quickly evolve and catch up with the times, particularly in South Africa. If China is able to build a hospital within 4 days and it takes South Africa 8 to 12 months to build a hospital, this means young people within the industry have a huge role to play in transforming the project delivery space," she said.

According to Xozwa, Catalytic and Mega Human Settlements Projects are "a radical and an innovative strategic way to address the dysfunctional issues of spatial planning created by the apartheid regime. The Mega Human Settlement will not only address the housing backlog that the country is currently facing but will also assist with socio-economic sustainability."

She said that the construction industry is important in society because it is one of the most progressive industries of today, and one that has a great impact on the economy of any nation.



Andiswa Xozwa youth contractor



## MEC MAILE TSHUMELO FOREWORD AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020

It was around this time last year that we lost Dr Thandi Ndlovu in a car accident. She was a prominent businesswoman who made her name in the construction sector, served as the president of the Black Business Council for the Built Environment, and built a ground-breaking, woman-owned construction business, Motheo Construction.

As we celebrate Women's month and also remember the life of Dr Thandi Ndlovu and look to honour the cause of women's empowerment that she was so passionate about, we must double up our efforts to transform the construction industry and create opportunities for women to participate meaningfully and significantly within its value chain.

As a Department, we want our developments and mega projects to contribute to economic transformation and, as such, we want to source bricks and mortar, window frames and similar goods that are locally produced, as we have seen in our development at Elijah Barayi.

In furtherance of this objective of economic transformation towards greater inclusivity, we have set ourselves a target to incubate 40 enterprises. As a bare minimum, ten of these must be women-owned, ten must be youth-owned and another ten must be owned by persons with disabilities.

We plan to spend 30% of our budget on women-owned businesses. We have an incubator programme to give effect to the economic empowerment of designated groups, of which women are most critical, and emerging contractors within the value chain of human settlements. We will also be allocating houses within our mega projects specifically to victims of gender-based violence, as part of our contribution of addressing and dealing with this unwanted societal phenomenon.

Through our incubator programme, we want to create an environment that enables the growth and development of incubator contractors, with women being at the forefront, so that they become sustainable contractors. Through the programme, we want to create experiential learning opportunities over a three-year period, give financial assistance, mentorship support that includes technical and business development support, as well as technical and business development training.

We have been reviewing our incubator model in order to improve its effectiveness and impact and are also looking at partnerships with other state entities, the private sector and development finance institutions, in order to help us develop the next generation of women in the industry, in the ilk of this trailblazer that was Dr Thandi Ndlovu.

We are of the conviction that in transforming the construction sector's value chain and creating opportunities for women to participate as owners and managers, we will also help facilitate the integration of women into other sectors of the economy because of the linkages that the construction sector shares with other economic sectors and the catalytic impact that the sector has on economic activity and development in general.

In honouring women during Women's month and in seeking to build a society that values women as significant economic, social and cultural contributors to the well-being of our nation, we must create opportunities through our human settlements developments for women to become owners, wealth creators, managers and asset-builders within the mainstream economy.

Our actions in pursuing this objective, are informed by the conviction best encapsulated in these words uttered by Thomas Sankara, *"by changing the social order that oppresses women, the revolution creates the conditions for their genuine emancipation."* Let us make our contribution to the socio-economic emancipation of women by opening up and creating opportunities for women within the construction industry and its multifaceted value chain.

**Lebogang Maile MPL**

**MEC: Human Settlements, Urban Planning and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

### Editorial Team

Amanda Khoza, Boitumelo Thema, Gopolang Leepile,

Luzuko Pongoma, Sithembiso Mkhize,

Zandi Gamedze, Gandhi Baai,

Tahir Sema

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/GDHumanSettlements/>

Twitter – [https://twitter.com/GP\\_DHS](https://twitter.com/GP_DHS)

Instagram – [https://www.instagram.com/gp\\_dhs/](https://www.instagram.com/gp_dhs/)

You-Tube – <https://youtube.com/channel/UCrCOwrYtSSQj3hF3GqbCg>



## Government Alleviates the Housing Backlog In the Province

### Gopolang Leepile

In efforts to alleviate the housing backlog in the province, the Gauteng Government has allocated integrated housing units to families who have been on the waiting list for years.

This comes after City of Johannesburg Mayor, Geoff Makhubo, and MMC for Housing, Mlungisi Mabaso, allocated 1 600 integrated housing units at Fleurhof Mega Human Settlement development.

Mayor Makhubo said that the allocation was a true reflection of Government's commitment to restore the dignity of Gauteng residents by providing decent shelter, as promised the by the first democratic Government.

"The allocation of these housing units to child-headed families, the elderly and those who cannot afford is proof that the promises made by the first democratically elected Government to afford our people decent shelter is lived up to. I am happy that this group of elderly citizens is receiving their homes today and that they were patient enough to wait for Government to deliver on its promise," said Makhubo.

Fleurhof is one of four Mega Human Settlement projects planned across the City of Johannesburg and, once completed, close to 21 000 families will be allocated into the development. One of the eldest beneficiaries, Nosingita Magxotywa (80), who lived for years in a shack at Setjwella informal settlement in Alexandra, could not hold back her tears, as she was overwhelmed with happiness.

"I am very happy that I now live in a decent home after living in a shack that kept us awake during rainy days. This resulted in the damage of most of my furniture, but I am grateful that a rainy roof will be a thing of the past," said Magxotywa.



Mayor Geoff Makhubo leads elderly lady to her new home

In addition, Mayor Makhubo gave a stern warning to those invading housing units meant for the poor for their selfish reasons.

"We will not tolerate any form of invasion in our City. We are going to allocate houses to eligible beneficiaries who have long applied for housing and have remained hopeful for many years," added Makhubo.



A view of Fleurhof Mega Human Settlements

## Elijah Barayi Mega Project

### By Sithembiso Mkhize

Elijah Barayi Village has become home to thousands of previously homeless and indigent who lived below the poverty line in informal settlements in the Khutsong area.

The village is one of a number of Mega City development projects that the Department of Human Settlements embarked on a few years ago. It was named after Elijah Barayi, who was a trade unionist and active in establishing the trade union movement on the mines.

Elijah Barayi is offering walk ups, stand-alone houses, financial linked individual programme services (FLISP) and rapid land release programme.

Upon completion, this project will be home to 12 799 families, contributing to the eradication of informal settlements in the area as well as alleviate the housing backlog in the Merafong Local Municipality.

It is expected to yield a different typology of houses, including 5 000 houses of Breaking New Ground that will house military veterans, 2 200 affordable houses in the Community Residential Units group, 3 500 social housing units, and 1 500 of Financial Linked Individual Subsidy Programme.

This project is the first of its kind in the Merafong Local Municipality that will include social amenities like Early Learning Centre, Primary and Secondary schools together with Technical College. It will further have an old age centre, a community hall, a taxi rank, a police station and clinics.

There will also be a Community Sports Field, a Light Industrial Park and a Multipurpose Centre, all of which are expected to improve the community's socio-economic status.

Through this housing project, the socio-economic conditions of Merafong Municipality and surrounding areas will be improved via the commitment to provide job opportunities and the current status on jobs created, spatial impact of the projects, job creation, basic support and growth in small local businesses.



## Elijah Barayi Home To Indigent

### By Luzuko Pongoma

Thomas Gubaza, 45, is one of the beneficiaries at the Elijah Barayi Village in the West Rand. The house is a home to his three children and a house that he has always dreamt of.

"I am a cleaner at the mine. I have never owned a house, I have been moving from one relative to the next since a young age. For my children it is different. They have a home," he said. Gubaza, who was living with his family at the house owned by wife's relative, said life in a flat is new to him and his family.

"As much as it is a new experience, I am going to learn and I have already embraced it. I encourage my new neighbours to do the same," he said.

For Noxolo Mkhwaphutheni, 47, getting a flat will mean getting more services from the government. "I am a hawker. I have been renting for close to two decades. As an indigent, I could not qualify for other benefits, like discount of services such as water and electricity. Now that I am a home owner I will apply for them and my quality of life will improve. I was not familiar with RDP flats, but I love them and they are beautiful," said Mkhwaphutheni.

## Affordable Rental Units for Dobsonville



MEC Maile and Mayor Makhobo in Dobsonville with the Sikosana family



Tenants taking a walk around the block

### Affordable Rental Is A Viable Housing Option

By Amanda Khoza

More than 300 000 people flock to Gauteng every year in search of economic opportunities, and subsequently accommodation, which makes the role of Social Housing agencies critical in the provision of affordable rental housing.

Speaking during the launch of the Dobsonville Social Housing project, MEC for Human Settlements, Lebogang Maile lauded the work done by agencies like JOSHCO in the development of rental units for the citizens of the province and those coming from outside looking for a better life.

“Social Housing projects are aimed at easing the difficulties of finding reasonably priced accommodation. Today we are here with the municipality to celebrate with the new residents and tenants of Dobsonville Social Housing development as well as to also congratulate those who have qualified for these rental units,” said MEC Maile.

“Beneficiaries who will be living in these apartments will enjoy the benefit of a safe and secure environment for singles and families” added the MEC.

Government officially launched the Dobsonville Social housing Mega project on February 1st and handed keys to over 200 tenants and welcomed the beneficiaries into their new homes in Dobsonville, south of Johannesburg.

Among the new Dobsonville tenants is the Qiniso family. 34-year-old Sikosana Qiniso who lives with disability (hard of hearing). As a mother of six children she was renting a one room that was too expensive for her minimal earnings.

“These flats are designed beautifully and the rent I am going to pay for this two bedroom apartment will give me much relief compared to what I was paying in at the previous place. We will love it here; I can't wait to move in already” she said.

The Dobsonville project is one of the City's Mega Social Housing project development under the management by the Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO). The project is

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A JOSHCO RENTAL UNIT

CRITERIA:	JOSHCO DOES NOT OFFER RENT TO BUY OR RDP ACCOMMODATION – our units are strictly rental.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The applicant must be a South African citizen</li> <li>✓ 18 years and older</li> <li>✓ The applicant's salary must be within the qualifying income bracket for a specific project</li> <li>✓ The applicant's monthly expenditure must not be above the monthly rental required</li> <li>✓ Black listed applicants will be assessed on a case by case.</li> </ul>	<p>Watch out for BOGUS agents posing as JOSHCO staff around our projects, fraudulently soliciting monies from under-privileged and desperate citizens in need of accommodation - these impostors do not represent JOSHCO in any way!</p> <p><b>JOSHCO DOES NOT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Employ any third party, individual or agent;</li> <li>➤ Accept any cash payments for rent or deposit, all payments are made into a JOSHCO account</li> <li>➤ Have specific individuals dealing with housing enquiries.</li> <li>➤ Process enquiries/applications anywhere except Head Office (unless otherwise communicated)</li> </ul> <p><b>JOSHCO SAYS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NO to fraud and corruption</li> <li>➤ Follow the correct channels to acquire a JOSHCO unit</li> <li>➤ Avoid becoming a victim - Blow the whistle against anyone fronting, selling or renting out a JOSHCO units</li> </ul> <p>Do not call JOSHCO staff members individually or send messages to enquire on any projects except through the head office line: 011 406 7300/7362 or via e-mail: <a href="mailto:leasing@joshco.co.za">leasing@joshco.co.za</a></p> <p>Disregarding the information above will lead to solicitation of bribe from people posing as JOSHCO staff!!!</p>
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Proof of address (Original proof of address from the bank will be accepted)</li> <li>✓ Original ID document &amp; certified copy</li> <li>✓ Recent payslip/salary advice or proof of income with letter confirming employment</li> <li>✓ Latest original salary advice</li> <li>✓ Written confirmation of employment</li> <li>✓ Same documents for spouse (certified)</li> <li>✓ 3 months bank statement with original bank stamp</li> <li>✓ Certified Copies of Birth Certificates</li> <li>✓ Certified copy of partner or spouses ID</li> <li>✓ Certified Copy of Marriage Certificate</li> </ul>	



Nancy Tshehla, a beneficiaries of the FLISP housing programme



A FLISP house

## Sosh Resident Is Proud Homeowner Through FLISP

By Boitumelo Thema

“I never thought that once day I would be a proud home owner like other people. But today because of FLISP, I have my own house in Soshanguve” said an excited Portia Masango.

The 32 year old became one of the beneficiaries of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) after her subsidy was approved by the Department of Human Settlements a couple of years ago.

She had applied for a home loan with the aim of buying an existing house in Soshanguve, costing R220 000 but had a shortfall of R49, 000 which was subsidized with more than R75.000 by FLISP.

“After the subsidy was paid into my home loan account, I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the amount that I have to repay the bank. I had a 20 year repayment agreement with the bank. Now I'm happy to say it will take me less than 20 years to repay the bank,” she said.

FLISP was developed by the Department to give first time home owners, opportunities to purchase a house with a subsidy top up, thus reducing the loan repayments for the beneficiary.

Masango noted that the process of purchasing the house didn't take long. “Within four months, all the bank and FLISP applications were processed and ready and I had enough time to terminate the lease agreement with my landlord and move into my own house.



# Days Are Numbered for Land Invaders and Syndicates

By Gopolang Leepile



**MEC for Human Settlements, Lebogang Maile together with the MECs for Community Safety and Infrastructure Development Tasneem Motara and CoJ Mayor Geoff Makhubo**

The Gauteng Government will no longer tolerate unscrupulous elements involved in land invasions across the province.

This comes after the launch of a law enforcement driven Anti-Land Invasion campaign which will see deployment of 1 500 community patrollers and members of the South African Police Services and Metro Police at land invasion hotspots across the province.

This strategic campaign was launched by MEC for Human Settlements, Lebogang Maile together with the MECs for Community Safety and Infrastructure Development, Faith Mazibuko and Tasneem Motara and City of Johannesburg Mayor, Geoff Makhubo at Lenasia, one of the land invasion hotspots in the province".

"As government we are going to act decisively to prevent land invasions. Various law enforcement agencies must exert the authority of the state, and those responsible must face the wrath of the law".

"Land invasions make planning and development intended for our communities near impossible. Hence, we call on communities to report illegal invasions to local authorities", said MEC Maile.

Sharing the same sentiments as MEC Maile, MEC Mazibuko said that days were numbered for those syndicates illegally invading land across the province and organising protests to discourage Government from removing them.

"We have integrated our law enforcement officials together with our community patrollers to have a favourable outcome in dealing with land invasion syndicates across the province," said MEC Mazibuko.

In addition, MEC Maile emphasised that Government will not evict anyone or demolish any structure that is built on invaded land during the lockdown period, however, after lockdown, evictions will be carried out as per court orders acquired by the Department.

"We are not an inhumane and brutal Government so we want to make it clear that we will not evict anyone during the lockdown period," said MEC Maile.



**Community safety patrollers gearing up to deal with land invaders**

## Residents Urged To Refrain From Land Invasion

By Boitumelo Thema and Luzuko Pongoma

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements has urged residents to refrain from invading and buying land that has been sold illegally. This comes as the number of cases of land invasion and selling of stands increases with both state-owned and privately owned land.

The invasion of land is a work of criminal syndicates that is targeting people with legitimate needs for housing. To combat this syndicate, MEC Lebogang Maile said that the department "has developed a proactive, interdepartmental, intergovernmental counter-land invasion strategy. The state will be addressing land invasion issues with the community and law enforcement".

Maile said that the government was looking at appointing a panel of service providers on protection, surveillance and prevention of unlawful occupation, also making use of technology and innovation. Government will be linking with Community Development Workers for information and intelligence gathering in order to prevent these illegal invasions.

"We have compiled an inventory management registrar of all government owned land earmarked for development around the province and are approaching the courts for a blanket court order to interdict and restrain those who would seek to occupy land illegally," was his report. The MEC said that the metropolitan municipalities have had a measure of success in dealing with unlawful occupation and as a result, the Department wants to give them power of attorney to assist us with executing eviction orders.

"We also want municipalities to assist us by establishing Land Invasion Management Units, in order to deal with illegal invasions as well as by ensuring by-law enforcement. For the current financial year of 2020/21, the Department was targeting 10 000 stands for rapid land release".

He said the Department has introduced Ikageleng (build for yourself), an initiative that is of innovative idea as part of rapid land release, looking to leverage the collective strength of stokvels and cooperative financial institutions as crowd funding options for people to build houses for themselves, once fully serviced stands have been released to them.



**Beneficiary of an RDP showing off her title deed**

Communities are encouraged to report selling of illegal stand and invasion of land to:

**EthicsDHS@gauteng.gov.za or call the Gauteng Hotline on 0860 428 8364**

## No More Tent Life For Wilgeheuwel Community

By: Sithembiso Mkhize

Wilgeheuwel housing beneficiary, Sophie Mtshilibe, could not contain her happiness when she was handed a key to her house in the Ikemeleng community.

The 76 year old Mtshilibe was one of the victims of farm eviction in the Ikemeleng informal settlements who had been living in tents for a long time. She said that life in a tent was very hard and had felt forgotten and abandoned.

"Now I have a place I can call home and will be safe and be able to practice social distancing to avoid contracting Covid 19 pandemic" said an excited Mtshilibe.

An Alternative Building Technology (ABT) was used to fast track the completion and allocation of the units in line with the national command council to ensure that the social distancing mandate of Covid 19 rules are adhered to.

MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and CoGTA, Lebogang Maile, and Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Geoff Makhubo, Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, had recently visited the community of Ikemeleng to hand over 70 housing units to the victims of farm eviction.

Minister Sisulu said that the Department of Human Settlements has started to ease the congestion in informal settlements, and the construction of 1 000 units around Mamelodi hostels which is home to more than 8 000 people is one of the priority projects.

Also in the priority list is the allocation of 1 500 housing units to qualifying beneficiaries in Merafong who come mainly from Khutsong and Kokosi informal settlements.

MEC Maile noted that one of the challenges faced by Gauteng is the invasion of land that is earmarked for housing development. He said invasion of land delays government from delivering on its mandate.

He said that through public-private partnerships, nothing can stop government from changing the lives of those in need of decent shelter in the province.



Sophie Mtshilibe waiting to move from into her new home



MEC Maile looks on as Mayor Makhubo cuts the ribbon to Mtshilibe



Mtshilibe's old tent at Wilgeheuwel

## Home In Time For Lockdown

### Luzuko Pongoma

More than 800 houses were allocated to deserving beneficiaries in the Sedibeng region during the lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. People who would have spent this time exposed were given the decent shelter of an RDP house.

MEC for Human Settlements, Cogta and Urban Planning, Lebogang Maile had, even before the lockdown urged for the speedy allocation of houses that are complete and ready for occupation to deserving beneficiaries.

The allocation of houses was continued as part of de-densification to ensure that people do not live in congested areas thus minimising the spread of Covid 19, but also to avoid them being invaded or damaged by criminal elements.

The Sedibeng region led with the allocation of 315 houses followed by the West Rand with 306 house. In the Ekurhuleni Region 123 houses were allocated while the Tshwane area allocated 51.

For one of the beneficiaries, Mandisa Maphetshana, 33, the house was not just a home for her but also an investment.

"I am currently unemployed, the house is my biggest asset. My children also have a home now," said the mother of three children. Maphetshana said that she applied for a house in 2008 and was a resident of Silahlwe informal settlements in the Sedibeng region. She is now one of the new owners of the Sicelo Shiceka RDP flats.

She said that she was happy with the RDP flat as her life and that of her family was going to improve.

"I love the design and the area. I am just concerned about the steps for the children, but we will all adjust and get used to them in no time," she said.