



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

DATE: TUESDAY, 30, April 2019

Thirty percent of the human settlements budget must be shifted to infrastructure.

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements in Gauteng Dikgang Uhuru Moilola calls for a shift in the budget for houses.

“I am driving a policy shift going forward, to say we should cut the budget of the construction of houses and direct the money to bulk infrastructure services so that we can put the country into a developmental trajectory. I am saying to Minister Tito Mboweni, I do not need new money from you. I want you to agree with the Minister of Human Settlements that we cut the housing budget by 30 percent then direct the 30 percent to strategic infrastructure so that where we have built, we do not come back to connect water, electrify and tar the roads.”

MEC Moilola was accompanied by Ekurhuleni Mayor, Mzwandile Masina and Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Kebby Maphatsoe in an event to hand over 100 houses and also turn the sod for the construction of 667 military veterans houses

The Palm Ridge extension 10 and 12 project consists of 6019 residential stands and other amenities such as schools, clinics etc. The stands are fully serviced with water, sewer drainage, roads & storm water and electricity and it will cost R1.4 billion when completed.

The target community will be beneficiaries from the Palm Ridge, Katlehong and Thokoza townships, including beneficiaries on the 1996/1997 needs register comprising of beneficiaries from the Sakhile, Mavimbela and Waterval Informal Settlements.

Mayor Mzwandile Masina said that the project was part of the city’s way of dealing with the housing backlog.

“There are already 200 houses that have been built in the same sites. There are services sites that are ready for people to come in, for those who can build for themselves,” he said.

Masina said that the government was prioritising the military veterans because there has been an outcry that they are neglected.

Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Kebby Maphatsoe said that the City of Ekurhuleni produced many freedom fighters some of which have died and were not honoured by the government. He said the Department of Military Veterans had committed to deliver 1000 houses in each financial year.

House beneficiary Cannon Mbele, 72, said that he was happy that he and his wife Monica Phumelele were going to move out of Sakhile informal settlement.

“That place is a wet land, we struggled a lot, I am very happy. One of our grandchildren is going to move in with us and also assist us since my wife and I are old,” he said

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government. For more information contact the Department of Human Settlements – DDG: Keith Khoza on 082 823 9672. For further information, photos and or videos of the Department, please visit:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/GDHumanSettlement/>
- Twitter - https://twitter.com/GP_DHS
- Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/gp_dhs/
- YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrC0wrYtSSQj3hF3jgGqbCg>

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