



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 5 May 2022

MEC Maile hands over housing units in Ekurhuleni

Earlier today, Thursday 5 May 2022, MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and CoGTA Lebogang Maile, joined by Ekurhuleni's Executive Mayor Cllr Tanya Campbell and MMC for Human Settlements Cllr Dino Peterson handed over housing units to beneficiaries of Alliance Extension 5, outside Benoni, City of Ekurhuleni.

The Alliance Extension project started in 2019, through resources allocated by Gauteng's Department of Human Settlement to the Municipality to tackle the housing backlog in the area. The project initially encountered slow progress due to disruptions and protests by various social forces. The Covid-19 outbreak also hindered the progress of the project.

The project is at the core of Gauteng's Integrated Human Settlements Strategy and has already delivered 1689 serviced sites, allocations are ongoing. Today, MEC Maile, Mayor Cllr Campbell and Cllr Peterson delivered 240 units to deserving beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are mainly from Lindelani Informal Settlement.

MEC Maile told the jubilant and delighted audience: "We are fulfilling the promise to restore the dignity of our homeless people owing to the sins caused by Apartheid, which historically stripped them of their dignity".

MEC Maile used the officiating to highlight challenges faced by the government in bringing much needed service delivery to communities. According to MEC Maile, "Gauteng has the highest number of people waiting for houses, as a result of in-migration. Every year more than 300000 people come to the Province. This puts immense pressure on the Province, amidst limited resources and competing service delivery demands".

MEC Maile made a passionate plea to beneficiaries not to fall victim to and give out their houses to loan sharks or mashonisa's. He alluded: "we know the challenges some of you face; poverty is a big problem, but don't sell your house for R2000, and complain later that Government is not delivering".

MEC Maile also used the opportunity to stress that the Gauteng Government will intensify its Rapid Land Release Programme, where people will get serviced stands to build their own houses. The target is households who do not qualify for government's fully subsidized housing and by their income levels cannot access home loans.

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