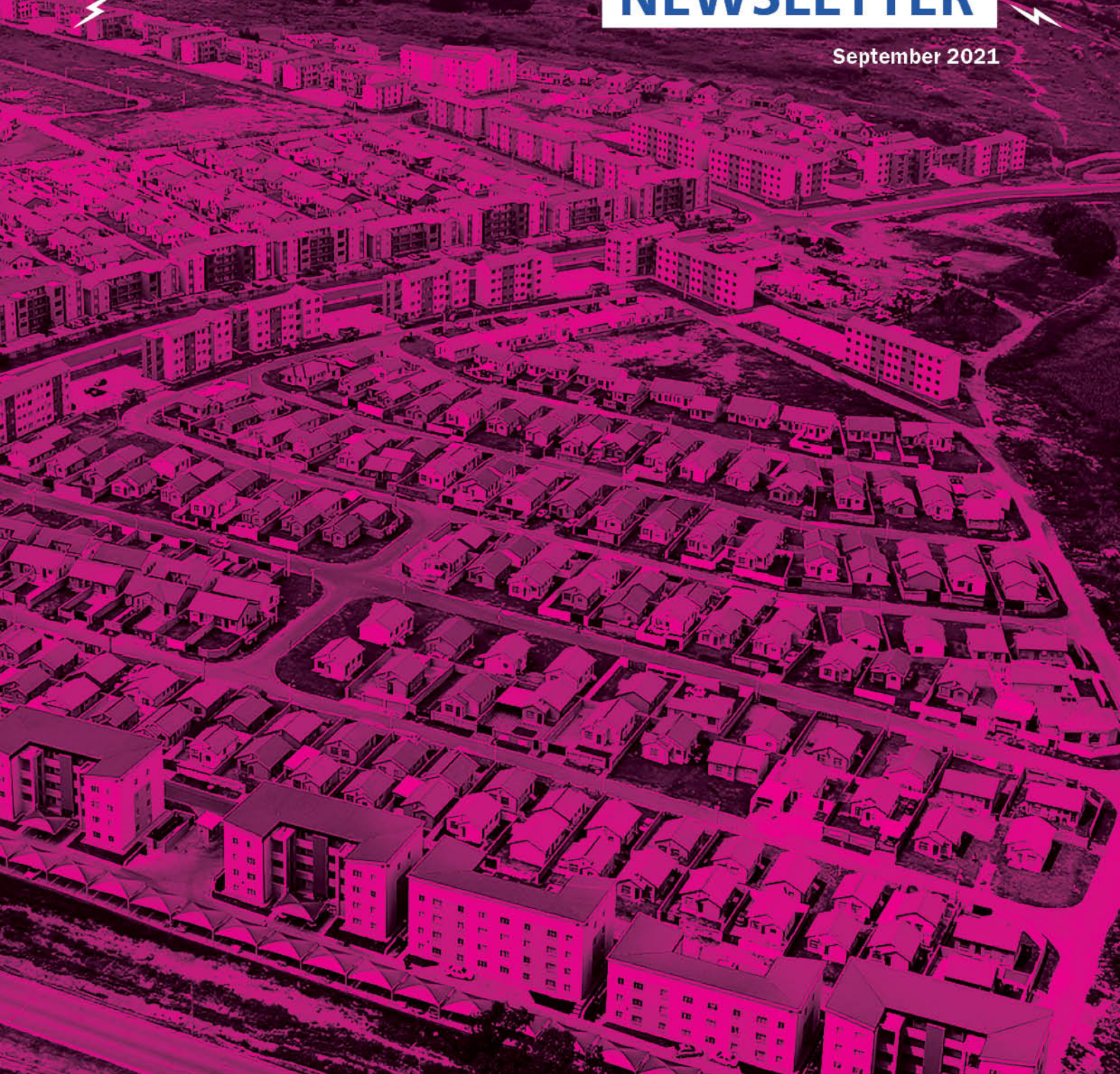


# eTshumelo

## NEWSLETTER

September 2021



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**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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Dear eTshumelo readers,

Our apology; we made a mistake and put the wrong information in the June 2021 edition of story 6 on the content page. The correct story should have read 'Gauteng replaces Nutec fibre cement roofs'. We are sincerely sorry for making such a mistake and hope it does not cause you any confusion or inconvenience





# *editorial team*

Amanda Khoza

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Sithembiso Mkhize

Tahir Sema

Nthele Motsepe

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Zandi Gamedze

Gandhi Baai







# FOREWORD

ETSHUMELO SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

Since this edition comes on the aftermath of our annual Women's Month celebration in August as a country, we need to reflect a bit more on how we are mainstreaming gender issues in all our plans and programmes as a provincial government.

A 2019 Women's Charter Review conducted by the Gauteng Provincial Government raises some important issues that we need to take into consideration when reflecting on our success or lack thereof in mainstreaming gender issues:

- We need to conduct a review and analysis of our success in mainstreaming gender issues as a provincial government when it comes to planning and budgeting processes.
- We need a review of our policies and programmes in terms of determining how successful they have been in addressing the pertinent matter of the economic exclusion of women, despite the progress that has indeed been made during the post 94 dispensation.
- We need to develop a gender mainstreaming programme of action for the province.
- We must outline strategic interventions to be undertaken and clear plans and programmes to be implemented, that will advance women's participation within the mainstream economy.

From a human settlements perspective, we must use the economic opportunities that lie within the human settlements space and how human settlements developments, with their backward and forward linkages, are a catalyst for economic development and growth within any locality, to promote gender mainstreaming and the increased participation of women within the mainstream economy.

We must use the Real Estate Access to Lending for Kasi (REAL 4 Kasi) fund, which we are going to be launching through our provincial entity, the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF), to provide funding towards women black developers to ensure that they receive equal opportunities to participate in the real estate and property sectors.

The GPF's Entrepreneur Empowerment Programme Fund, which has to date, invested just over R400 million towards 40 development projects, offering 100% finance to projects that are less than R15 million as active senior debt funders, must also reflect this bias towards women-owned and women-run development projects, within the construction and property development space.

Within the current financial year that we are in, we have taken a position that 50% of loans approved by the GPF must be given to women and as a department, we have ring-fenced 30% of our procurement spend towards entities run by women, youth and persons living with disability.

We are looking at the whole human settlements ecosystem and value chain in order to increase the participation of women, using all our plans and programmes in order to bring that about and we would like to see greater emphasis being placed on gender responsive budgeting processes, so as to ensure sufficient resource allocation towards the implementation of programmes that impactfully contribute to the empowerment and mainstreaming of women within the economy, with human settlements as one of the catalysts for that.

Lebogang Maile MPL

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





# WOMEN'S MONTH

Houses for women led households at Obed Mthombeni

By: Sithembiso Mkhize

**M**ore than 20 women led households were allocated houses at the Obed Mthombeni Nkosi housing development in Heidelberg, Devon as the country kicked off the Women's Month commemoration. Moreover 241 households were allocated houses during the MEC's visit. MEC for Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Urban Planning, Lebogang Maile, addressing the community, said the handover to women was also in appreciation of the efforts made by women in 1956, who fought hard against the apartheid pass laws. "It is important that government works hard to ensure that women are given opportunities and support in their undertakings," said MEC Maile. The MEC kick-started the month's activities with oversight visits and assessing service delivery progress in the Lesedi Local Municipality, Impumelelo and KwaZenzele in Davon. He also held engagements with contractors, political leadership and other stakeholders, to get understanding of the challenges faced by contractors especially. "Today we are here to assess service delivery progress. We want to see for ourselves that the houses we have contracted to companies to build are indeed rising," said Maile. He noted that there were delays with the KwaZenzele project but was encouraged by the fact that the contractor was on site to start with the building of houses. The MEC told residents that the project would be closely monitored to guarantee speedy delivery. "We will be monitoring the project's progress to ensure that work is done so that we can give people decent houses and restore their dignity," said MEC Maile. He further asked the community to be patient with government and development and wait their turn for allocation, and also implored beneficiaries not to sell their houses as these are homes that become generational assets should not be taken away from families.



Jaqueline Magalane Dekgole a youth contractor and owner of Leotake Engineering Solutions, working on bonded houses at a Kwa-Mhlanga housing project in Randfontein.



# WOMEN

contractors make their **mark** in housing

By: Sithembiso Mkhize







Women in construction from Ratanda are making in-roads in the male dominated construction sector at Obed Mthombeni Nkosi housing project in Heidelberg. One of the women contractors, Ntombifuthi Mayaba Mtshali, 47, who built Block G walk-up flats, with 12 units, challenged other women to join the construction space and make a name for themselves while building for the nation. Mtshali said she and the other contractors were very excited to have been entrusted with such a huge project as women. She added that this was a dream come true for the group of women who had participated in the Department's incubation programme.

She noted that the road to success is never easy, and the Obed Mthombeni Nkosi project was not an easy one. "As level one contractors we had a number of challenges and one of them was capital. We did not have the capital to finance our daily activities, but I am excited that we soldiered on, and we knocked on different doors for funding and today we are handing-over the units that we built from the ground" said Mtshali. In addition, Mtshali said as a beneficiary and a witness of the incubation programme for women in construction, she is inspired and would like other women to take such opportunities seriously. She also called upon Gauteng Government to continue with its support and entrust them with more and bigger projects going forward so that they can grow in this field.

"I can boldly urge women to join this industry, as women we should not be afraid to take risks in life, and we should not give up, because if we do, it means we have failed and that is not the legacy we want to leave for the next generation who will take the baton forward" said Mtshali. She further thanked the Department of Human Settlements for the support, opportunity and reiterated that the only way to "Growing Gauteng Together" and achieve vision 2030 is to bring women along and work hand in hand with them, which is what women like Charlotte Maxeke fought for.





# Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF)

## Calls for Women Property Developers

By: Sithembiso Mkhize

The Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF) is calling for women who are interested in the development of affordable housing to apply for funding from the entity.

This is a strategic and systematic to women as part of women empowerment considering that South Africans recently celebrated Women's Month to appreciate the hard work put forward by Imbokodo. This call emanates from Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Urban Planning, Lebogang Maile's budget vote speech when he said that the GPF has since 2019, deliberately taken a pro-active approach to empower women within the property development sector, with R8.5 million of loan approvals in the previous financial year having gone to women.

The GPF's Entrepreneur Empowerment Programme Fund (EPPF), has to date, invested over R400 million towards 40 development projects and offering 100% finance to projects that are less than R15million as active senior debt funders.

Therefore, to participate and become significant industry leading players in the affordable housing market as alluded by the MEC Maile in his budget speech. The property developers can apply for funding either through the Entrepreneur Empowerment Property Fund which is suitable for first time property developers or through the Rental Funding which is suitable for experienced property developers.


Interested developers can apply for funding through contacting Ms Palesa Tlowan on Email: [palesat@gpf.org.za](mailto:palesat@gpf.org.za) and Ms Nohlanhla Mbongo Email: [nonhlanhla@gpf.org.za](mailto:nonhlanhla@gpf.org.za) for more information.



# Maile

## cracks the whip against land and house invasions

By: Luzuko Pongoma



Left: MEC Maile is ready to deal with house and land invasions

Concerted efforts against land and house invasion went into higher gear when MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and Cogta, Lebogang Maile visited Beverly Hills in Evaton, south of Gauteng.

Accompanied by Mayor of Emfuleni, Gift Moerane, Maile toured the area to access the extend of the invasion.

In 2018 the Gauteng Provincial Government bought 777 serviced sites to build houses for qualifying beneficiaries but some of the land has since been invaded.

“Illegal invasions are counter-developmental as they deny qualifying beneficiaries their right to occupy land and housing that is legally theirs and they also sabotage, and delay government housing developments aimed at addressing the growing housing backlog. It is for this reason that we will be unapologetically enforcing the eviction order,” said MEC Maile. Maile said private security solution was sourced to safeguard the land, whilst Development Planning was working on the reconnection of bulk infrastructure, clearing, and pegging.

“A criminal case has also been opened with the police to deal with the claim of illegal selling of land and a court order has also been granted to the provincial government, interdicting, and restricting anyone from erecting, attempting to erect or completing erection of any illegal structures on the said land,” he said.

The MEC said the court interdict also prevents anyone from bringing any building materials onto the land, intimidating, harassing, or assaulting anyone enforcing the court order as well as inciting and encouraging any other persons to settle on the land or erect structures for the purposes of illegally occupying the land.

“Despite the court order, it has been brought to our attention that there are persons who have continued to erect structures on the land, in contravention of the court order. Provincial government has already served the land invaders with a written notice, informing them of the existence of the court order obtained against invasion of Evaton West land,” he said. Maile said the State Attorney’s office was also asked to apply for eviction order against occupants of all completed structures. He further warned people against scammers selling land or property they don’t own and said all illegal activities should be reported to the department and law enforcement.

**To Report invasions email: [Ethicsgdhs@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Ethicsgdhs@gauteng.gov.za) or call the Gauteng hotline at 08604288364.**



# VISUALLY

## impaired subcontractor contributes to Mega Human Settlements

By: Boitumelo Thema and Luzuko Pongoma

Respect people who are living with disabilities, they can think also, do not undermine them, these are the words of Potso Mtjali.

Mtjali, 32, is a visually impaired subcontractor working at the Dan Tloome Mega Human Settlements project in Randfontein, west of Gauteng.

The father of two said that his highest qualification is a matric and Business Administration certificates. He said he started his company, Diffability PNS Solution in 2014 after an incident with the police left him visually impaired. "The name is a combination of two words, different abilities. Our core service is construction and maintenance and other services that we offer are cleaning, supply of office equipment," he said.

"In this project, we are doing plastering, and I have employed 18 people. Other work that the company has done includes supplying the SABC and other provincial government departments with office equipment," he said.

Mtjali said in 1996, a firecracker exploded in his face and he hid it from his parents.

"In 1999 my parents realized I had a keratoconus, went for a treatment and it was fixed in 2010 after I received a donation. In 2013, I was assaulted by the police which resulted in my losing my eyesight," said Mtjali.

With September 20 to October 17, being Eye Care Awareness Month Mtjali added that eyes are very important, and people must take care of their eyesight. "People must protect their eyes from the sun, they must avoid fights as they can lead to your eyes being injured going blind. I miss my eyesight," he said, adding that caring for one's eyes is an important and everyday thing that should go beyond the awareness month.

Mtjali called on people living with disabilities to organise themselves so they can participate in community economic developments and not be derailed by petty politics. He noted that his company is also working on two structures in the Westrand area.

Mtjali called on people living with disabilities not to sit in corners as they will miss out on opportunities.

"I can relate to the song "uzoyithola kanjani uhleli ekoneni," we must be strong and stand up for ourselves, do the work and become independent," he said.

"We have the Westrand Disability Business Chamber which is a regional structure and the local one is Randwest Disability Business Chamber that are advocating for the economic rights and interests of persons living with disabilities. We have organised recently after seeing that people living with disabilities are not being recognised in the business sector. These structures assist with the registration of companies and finding work," he said.

He thanked the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements for the opportunity to work.

"This is empowerment, this is magic. Every day when I come to work, as a blind person, people ask me where do I work and how do I work? I tell them I work under the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements at Dan Tloome Mega City and I say it with pride and confidence," he said.





Potso Mtjali, owner of Diffability PNS Solutions is a visually impaired subcontractor at the Dan Tloome Mega Human Settlements project in Randfontein





## Minister urges public servants to strive for responsive and ethical service

By: Amanda Khoza

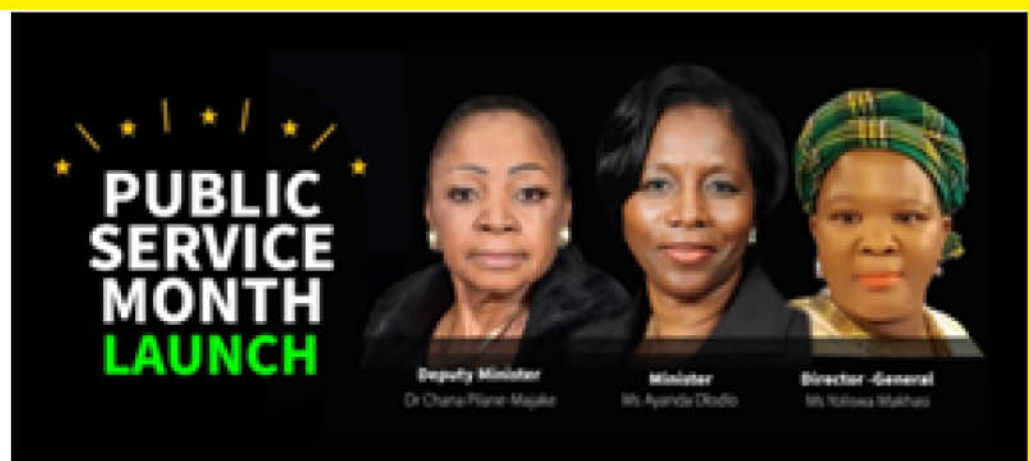
The Minister for the Public Service and Administration, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo recently launched the Integrated Public Service Month (IPSM). This kickstarted a series of activities earmarked to celebrate this annual program and to recognise the work done by public servants across all spheres of government.

Deputy Minister Chana Pilane-Majake delivered an opening and welcome remarks with the national anthem and a moment of silence for public servants who had lost their lives to Covid-19 pandemic. The programme which runs from 30 August to October 1st is under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke – a resilient public service responsive to the coronavirus pandemic." Minister Dlodlo said an honest public servant is one that is "competent, agile, innovative and responsive to the needs of all." The theme seeks to celebrate the life of the late struggle stalwart, Charlotte Maxeke, by emulating the ethos and values that she espoused as a public servant as reflected in the Public Service Charter. It also reinforces government's commitment to instil a sense of pride in being a public servant, and calls on public servants to be ethical, committed and live the principles of Batho Pele. "Let us always uphold the supremacy of our Constitution and the rule of law. Let us meet the expectations our people have of us by serving the with pride, dedication and the best of our abilities," said Dlodlo. The launch set-off a series of activities by various government departments across the country.

The September month is also earmarked to celebrate the National Heritage Month, the Tourism Month, and to commemorate the fallen heroes which is part of the activities for the Police Safety.

It also assesses the quality-of-service delivery and monitors standards to ensure that Batho Pele principles are not being compromised. "Let us fight corruption and build a capable, ethical and developmental state that puts people and their needs at the centre of our work. By fighting to end corruption, we guarantee our citizens access to equal and quality services to which they have a Constitutional right." added the minister.

Public Service and Administration Minister Ayanda Dlodlo, on the virtual launch of the Integrated Public Service Month (IPSM)





# MEC RIGHTS

## THE WRONG WITH A NEW AND BIGGER HOUSE

By: Nthele Motsepe

The heap of rubble said it all.

Transfixed to the center of the yard, where their brick house once stood, these ruins bore mute testimony to the day the house of Mhlahla family came crumbling down in 2017 due to illegal demolition by the Red Ants.

After learning of this fate, MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lebogang Maile immediately directed departmental officials to prioritize the re-construction of another house. Although Mhlahla family may never forget the events of that cold December day, their faces beamed with joy when Maile recently arrived to officially hand them a new house.

"The last time we were here, we apologized for the inconvenience that was caused. We reiterate and emphasize our regret and apologize unreservedly to this family. Instead of shifting blame, we decided that we should rather take responsibility," said Maile. The department was in the process of compensating this family with an RDP house.

After realizing that this process was going to be long, the MEC opted for a public-private partnership.

This yielded a bigger house. "This is an example of what public private partnership can achieve. We want to thank Mr Kona and his group of companies," said Maile. Speaking on behalf of the family, Constance Mhlahla could not hide her joy. The mother of three told us: "We are happy that this is finally happening. We are now going to sleep inside a proper house. We won't have to worry about rainy days and cold winter nights that we endured inside that temporary shack." These sentiments were also shared by her husband, Alfred Mhlahla. "I am glad that we have an MEC like Maile. We didn't have to queue outside his office for us to have a word with him. He came to our home and promised that the day he returns here, it will be the day that he hands us a new house."

Maile went on: "We have not done this family a favor. This is what any caring government should do. We are building toward the goal of making sure that everyone has a house."







# *A colleague with a big heart*

By: Luzuko Pongoma

As Covid 19 pandemic continues to leave many devastated, some departmental employees continue to bring light to the less fortunate in the country. One of those is Sabelo Dingiswayo, the Assistant Parliamentary Liaison Officer in the Office of the MEC. He does this through the Nofotyo Development Forum (NDF). The NDF recently donated school tracksuits to the pupils of Mveli, Upper Nofotyo and Lower Nofotyo Primary schools in the Eastern Cape.

Dingiswayo, 39, said he was inspired by his upbringing to be a giver.

"I grew up in a poverty-stricken family. I know what it means not to have even the basics. So, having seen that majority are struggling to secure the basics, we decided to be part of the solution. We started by donating Track suits for three schools in rural areas seeing that these kids were struggling, and that winter was approaching," he said.

Dingiswayo said that the two years without a salary increase for public service employees did not deter him from lending the helping hand to others. "Even during these difficult times, we are inspired by the fact that we know how it feels to be in need. Our motto is "We do not give because we have more, we give because there is a need". So, the fact that we have financial challenges, does not make it worse than those who do not have any income at all. We try to share the little we have with those who have nothing at all," said Dingiswayo. Dingiswayo pleaded with fellow public servants to cushion the needy against the impact of Covid-19 by opening their hearts and wallets. "Those who are less fortunate than us did not ask for that situation...they would like to improve their situation," he said.



Above: Sabelo Dingiswayo with some of the learners he helped with warm school wear during the winter season





# Eureka!

By: Nthele Motsepe

This is what the 17th century Greek goldsmith named Archimedes is said to have uttered when he hit upon a method of determining the purity of gold. That was many moons ago. Closer to home, the same eureka cry of joy and satisfaction continue to reverberate across many communities in Gauteng as more people get Tittle Deeds and houses for the first time in all their born days. Recently the MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and Cogta, Lebogang Maile and the Minister of Human Settlements, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane visited Elijah Barayi Mega Project in Merafong Municipality where 97 families stood to get Tittle Deeds as beneficiaries of government's housing programme. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the minister and the MEC only handed over a limited number of Tittle Deeds and allowed the rest to be subsequently handed over by departmental officials in order to avoid crowding.

The department noted that, not only do these housing projects empower female-owned construction companies, but that out of these 97 Tittle Deeds, a whopping 67 were to be allocated to females. According to

Below: Human Settlement's Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi with MEC Lebogang Maile





Sam Mahatlane the project implementation was going smoothly "Currently the developer is rectifying bulk installation. There are more than 800 houses ready for allocation immediately after bulk installation. This should be from the beginning of October 2021." Mahatlane went on: "The project has also completed 12 houses for military veterans." During the event the minister and the MEC were joined by the executive mayor and MMCs. They later proceeded to conduct inspections at Montrose Mega Project, Dan Tloome Mega Project and Brick Valley Housing Project within the same district. Mahatlane says the Dan Tloome project has more than 400 houses which will be ready for allocation around October 2021 after electricity installation would have been completed. While the contractor is currently fixing bulk challenges at the Mantrose Mega Project, some units are ready for allocation. This project too boasts houses for military veterans. The Brick Valley Housing Project which is situated in Tarlton is also progressing well after bulk installations challenges were resolved. "The contractor is now busy with completion of the top structure. The MEC and the minister intend visiting this area too in order to hand over more houses," said Mahatlane. Notwithstanding housing crisis as a result of migration into Gauteng, as well as many other contributing factors, the department continues to progressively put roofs over the heads of society's most vulnerable families within its available funds.





# GAUTENG RENTAL HOUSING TRIBUNAL

## RESOLVES RENTAL ISSUES

By: Amanda Khoza



- Did your landlord lock you out or cut off your water or electricity due to delayed rent payments?
- Are you owed rental money by a tenant?
- Look no further than the Gauteng Rental Housing Tribunal (GRHT) for free resolutions.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only led to loss of income for many people. It has also seen many tenants being locked out or thrown out due to failure to pay rent on time or complete non-payments. While failure to pay rent is wrong, cutting electricity and water or evicting a tenant without a court order is equally wrong and can have consequences for the landlords. To avoid being caught of the wrong side of the law, aggrieved landlords or tenants will do well to turn to the Gauteng Rental Housing Tribunal (GRHT) for free and legally compliant resolutions. The primary function of the GRHT is to promote stability in the rental housing sector by resolving disputes that arise between tenants and landlords in residential dwellings. These include flats, privately owned houses, shacks, communes, backyard rooms, and outbuildings. The tribunal can order a landlord or tenant to comply with any part of the Rental Housing Act, 1999 (Act No. 50 of 1999) and its procedural regulations. In order to save contending tenants and landlords expensive litigations, the rulings of the tribunal were given the same binding force as those of Magistrate Courts.

A tenant or landlord or group of tenants or landlords or

interest groups may lodge complaints for unfair practice. The responsibility of the tribunal is to also educate, provide information and advice tenants and landlords on their rights and obligations. These services are available at no cost for either parties from the time a complaint is filed to the end of a mediation or tribunal hearing.

How to register a complaint Parties to a dispute can download a landlord complaint form/ tenant complaint form from the Gauteng Digital Platform website: <https://www.gauteng.gov.za/Departments/CPM-001007/Services> To register a complaint the aggrieved party is required to email the form and attach the following supporting documents:

- A lease agreement (if available)
- A copy of Identity Document or a Permit (foreign nationals)
- Proof of payment (invoice or bank receipt)
- Physical address and contact numbers of the tenant/ landlord/agent is important
- Any correspondence that may be of assistance in resolving the dispute.

The form together with supporting documents should be emailed to one of the below email addresses:

- [Betty.kgobe@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Betty.kgobe@gauteng.gov.za)
- [Zain.mclaren@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Zain.mclaren@gauteng.gov.za)
- [Keletso.makeng@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Keletso.makeng@gauteng.gov.za)

Tip: Attach certified copies of your documents to the



complaint form and keep your originals. Also, keep a copy of the complete complaint form including all the attached documents you submit. Write down the date that you submitted the form, and the name of the staff person you submitted the form to if you are not submitting the complaint online. Ask for written confirmation that you have submitted the complaint, or at the very least get the Rental Housing Tribunal's date stamp on your copy of the submitted complaint form. Once your complaint has been received, a file is opened with a case reference number, which will be sent to you and can be used to track your complaint. About two weeks after receiving your case number, you and your landlord should receive a letter stating that your complaint has been received. It must include your case reference number. Once your complaint has been received, tribunal staff check whether your complaint involves a dispute about a possible unfair practice. They may also ask for more information from you or your landlord to help them understand the complaint. Tribunal staff can also arrange for an inspector to visit the property.

After the investigation, the tribunal staff has 30 days to decide whether or not the complaint is about a dispute that may be an unfair practice. If the tribunal staff think that an unfair practice may be involved, they will continue to try and resolve the dispute and must let you know about the arising decision. Your case will be allocated a case officer, who may first try to find a solution by calling you and your landlord to discuss the issue. The case officer then decides whether the dispute can be solved through mediation or a hearing.

- Mediation is a meeting where both parties try to come to a common agreement after discussing the problem, with the help of a neutral mediator from the tribunal.
- In a hearing, both parties state the facts of their dispute to members of the tribunal board, who will make a ruling.

Tip 1: Make sure you have copies of all the documents that you need for your case when attending the mediation or hearing. This includes receipts, proof of WhatsApp messages or SMSs, copies of lease agreements, and any other documents that may be relevant.

Tip 2: Make sure you follow up on your complaint, call the office or send email to follow up. Keep following up regularly until your complaint has been resolved.



Brickfields was built by the JHC in 2005 and has created a new residential community in the heart of the city.



Rehoboth Hills project was launched under the ambit of the GPF's Entrepreneur Empowerment Property Fund (EPPF), an incubator programme that was established in 2010 to encourage emerging black property developers to participate in the affordable housing residential property market.



# Minister Kubayi

## to crackdown on errant contractors

By Amanda Khoza



“We are going to crackdown on the contractors who abandon projects and don’t finish off their work.” – Minister Kubayi. The Minister of Human Settlements, Mmamoloko Kubayi, has issued a stern warning against all contractors who performed poorly and did not deliver on housing projects across all the provinces. From now henceforth, we are going to tighten contract management such that consequence management is integral in every contract. Any contractor who, without a reasonable explanation, is found to have violated contractual obligations will be dealt with accordingly,” said Kubayi.

“We can no longer allow, under such a constrained fiscal environment, project developers and contractors to waste public resources on poorly implemented projects,” Kubayi said. The National Department of Human Settlements plan to tighten contract management such that consequence management is integral in every contract. The minister also has implored provinces to pay contractors who are delivering within 30 days in order to accelerate housing delivery. The Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi is currently touring all provinces to inspect and assess the delivery of sustainable human settlements. The purpose of these visit is to ensure the provincial human settlements departments are on track regarding the delivery of houses, and in meeting their 2021/2022 targets.





# CELEBRATE YOUR CULTURE THROUGH HOME INTERIOR DESIGN THIS **HERITAGE MONTH**

By Mary-Jane Sidambe

Heritage Month in September and Heritage Day on 24 September is celebrated annually to mark our nation's diverse culture and heritage. As we prepare to commemorate and express our heritage, it's important to bear in mind that the significance Heritage Day expands far beyond just a public holiday in our country. It's an opportunity for all of us in South Africa, who are part of the kaleidoscope of various cultures, to celebrate both what makes us unique and what unifies us as people.

A way of celebrating your culture can be through home interior design. Why not bring elements of your culture into your home as a commemoration of all that is distinctively you?

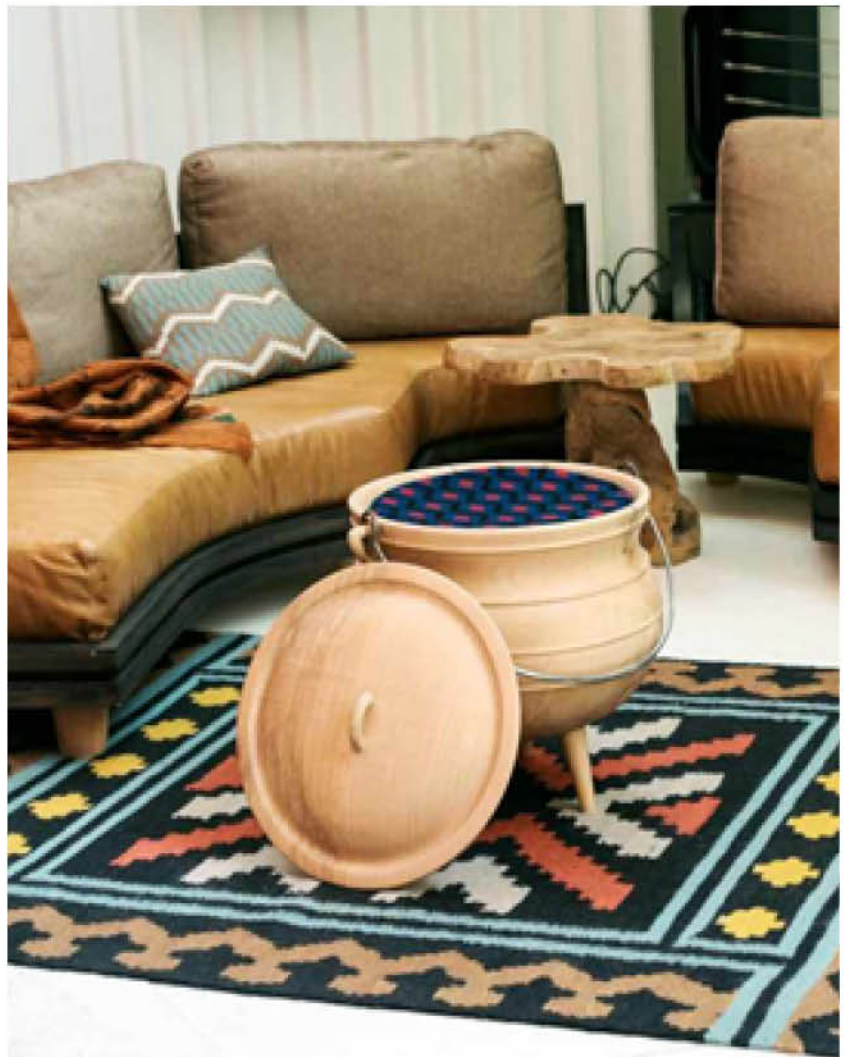
Use your ethnic ancestry as inspiration for celebrating your heritage through interior design as a way to embrace your past, present and future and share your culture with others. We've gathered some ways to inspire your desire to bring your culture alive in your home and day-to-day life.

**Celebrate your culture at home**

There's probably no better place to display your ancestral roots than adding representative touches to your home decor like rugs, photos, art or furniture. Every room of your home can play host to your heritage.

**Rugs, blankets and wall-hanging designs**

**MAXHOSA'NDILE — RUG (Maxhosa Africa)**



Adding decorative rugs, blankets or wall accents like textiles can bring a beautiful accent to your room. Colourful, patterned rugs can embrace multiple cultures and remain as popular in today's rooms as they were centuries ago. Center a piece of furniture like a table or bed on an eye-catching rug or use one as a smaller accent piece that protects your floor from heavy traffic while adding a cultural element



## Wall Art

Ndebele Pattern Wall Art (source: Pixalot)



The iconic pattern has symbolic meaning to the Ndebele tribe. It can mean status or power of the home's owners, offer prayer, announce a marriage in the home, or can represent a current protest. Wall art is a fantastic way to show both your personality and culture like paintings that depict your ancestors.

## Cook your favourite traditional dishes



Source: Bloemfontein courant

One tasty way to celebrate your heritage and keep your culture alive is to cook family recipes. There's nothing like those familiar smells wafting from the oven or stovetop, and the anticipation of those flavours so dear to your taste buds.

Invite friends and family over for an evening of sharing your ethnic cuisine, a taste of home. share. This is a meaningful way to introduce others to your culture and culinary traditions.



Source: Randburg Sun



## Celebrate heritage through clothes

Pride yourself in showing off your traditional attires to your family and friends. You can come up with weekly themes where you dress up in different outfits with family and friends to promote your African identity and to share each other's knowledge of cultures.



source: Brand South Africa



Showcasing your ethnic culture adds a flair to your home decor or life while presenting the opportunity to share your family's customs and traditions and keep your ancestral roots alive. Craft your own cultural haven at home, the perfect place to relax at the end of the day as you cherish your past while enjoying the present.



# Contributors



## Intlakohlaza

By  
Ntombekhaya Yalezo

Sikwinyanga yethoba ebizwa ngokuba yeyoMsintsi apho kohlulelana ubusika nehlobo,  
Ihlobo lithi busika deda elakho ixesha liphelile kuzokhala esam isigingci.

Iintwasahlobo yehlula iibhokhwe ezigusheni.

Singabanye siyaluvuyela kakhulu olu tshintsho lwenzekayo,

Bebusiphethel'imbengwna obu busika,

Ngoku sizakungcamla ukuqaqamba nobukhazikhazi bendalo.

Sizakukhe sizive sihlaziyekile, sikhaphukhaphu.

Uhlaza neentyatyambo luzakube luthe bhenqe ludlisela luzibonakalisa ukuba ixesha lalo lifikile. Kudala ulusizi umhla-  
ba uxwebile, ukhedamile, usongekile, utshazile, uhlininika, umbi kunzima ukudlisela ngenxa yesimo.

Yonk'into ibigugile ingacacanga.



Ingqele, ikhephu, nothuli olumbhoxo olungenamkhombandlela belutshazise kwanto,  
Yonke nje into ibixwebile ingasaniki kwamdla isozela, ibhuyaza.  
Umhlaba ubuneentloni uthokombisile ngathi ngumtshakazi.

Kufike elo xesha lonyaka intwasahlobo apho yonke into izakuthi dlundlu,  
Iphaphame, igqame, iqhakaze, idubule izenzele udumo.  
Lizakuqamba ilanga linike ithemba lobomi kwizityalo zomhlaba,  
Nakwiziqhamo neentyatyambo ezigqagqeleyo.  
Imithi izakuyakazela luvuyo nobuhle.

Izilwanyana zizakuvuseleleka zizale, zidlobe zinga zithi – tyaph`ufike ntlakohlaza.  
Lintaka zibhabhela phezulu ziyantyiloza,  
Izinambuzane ziyanyakama zikhuphisana ngezandi.  
Imifula izakugquma ihlokome.  
Izakuba yintlutha yodwa siza kutya sibhukuxe,  
Indlal`igwetyiwe, inene le sizakuxhaph`ubusi nobisi.

Namhla siyancuma siyahleka, sihlaziyekile, sihlambulukile sibahle, sigcobile.  
Masiyamkele intlakohlaza ngemivuyo, ngoba iimini eziqhaqhazelisa amazinyo zidlule.  
Sizakuba nobudlelwane obuluqilima nendalo  
Sizakukwazi ukukhe sibethwe yimpepho sibuke indalo siyibonge siyonwabele.

Ubomi bethu bufana twatse namaxesha (seasons) onyaka,  
Akuhlali kumnandi, kungahlali kukubi kananjalo.  
Kubakho amaxesha apho izinto zingahambi kakuhle kwaphela,  
Mhlaumbi emsebenzini, kwi business, endlini,  
Abantwana abamameli, emtshatweni ingulowo utsalela kwelakhe icala, ekuhlaleni ujikelwe nangabo ububathembile.

Kungoku nje abanye bethu bakhathazekile, badandathekile iintliziyo zisukile esihlalweni ziyatyatyamba.  
Izinto bezihamba kakuhle kakhuulu suke gqi qhaphu isivunguvungu se COVID19  
Esifike ngesantyakazi yangathi kudaala singqendevile sijonge ikroba.  
Sifike sakhukulisa yanga siyadlisela kwakhonya sona yema yonke into ngxu.  
Ayikho inkanga edubul`ingethi, eyenza njalo sube ihlola.  
Nale iyedlula kwaye lixesha lokuba ucholachole konke uzilungise uziqokelele  
Ithi ifika i season elandelayo ikufumane uyilungele uyixhobe kananjalo.  
Bulela xa ezi zikhukula zikushiye intliziyo isampompa igazi,  
Usenayo nengqondo yokucinga indlela ongenza ngayo izinto ngcono ukuze uzokwazi ukuhlala uthe qwa kwixesha elizayo.





## GALLERY WALL

1. Jabulani Mall Covid 19 vaccination drive
2. MEC Maile at Jabulani Mall vaccination site
3. Minister Patricia de Lille with Deputy Minister for DPWI, Noxolo Kiviet, Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements Urban Panning, Co-
4. Lydiam takes delivery of her home sweet home