







HUMAN SETTLEMENTS **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA** **GGT**2030 GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER



MECS FOREWORD TSHUMELO THIRTY YEAR CELEBRATION EDITION

Despite the enduring challenges of historical spatial inequality, social fragmentation, and contemporary urbanisation, the Gauteng provincial government has achieved an unprecedented feat. Over the past thirty years, it has delivered an astounding 1.3 million housing opportunities, a testament to its commitment to providing sustainable human settlements with access to social amenities and socio-economic opportunities.

During this period, the provincial government has not only shifted its housing delivery paradigm from RDP housing to mega human settlements but also demonstrated a proactive approach to addressing challenges. It has worked towards upgrading and potentially eradicating informal settlements, providing rudimentary services, relocating households, and acquiring land. These interventions are part of our comprehensive informal settlement upgrading programme.

Looking ahead, the provincial government is implementing a hostel redevelopment strategy. This strategy aims to transform hostels into liveable family units, providing better, more dignified living conditions for hostel dwellers and their families. In the interim, significant work has been done to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure in these hostels, with the ultimate goal of developing them into family-friendly and sustainable precincts.

Promoting tenure security is one of our main priorities as a progressive government. In that regard, we are happy to have made huge inroads in improving the rate and pace of title deeds issuance over the past thirty years, despite again facing many challenges in doing so. We want to expedite title deed issuance and prioritize the acceleration of township proclamation and formalization.

A lot has been achieved over the past thirty years, overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds and manifold challenges, so as we look back on thirty years of democracy, it behooves us to remind ourselves of where we come from, to appreciate and celebrate the many positive steps forwards and achievements we have made in housing delivery, whilst at the same time preparing ourselves to confront the challenges that still face us in housing delivery with the requisite enthusiasm and fortitude that is required to ensure that we achieve the objective of dignified living conditions for all our citizens. We must look back to go forward with more



accuracy and precision, to remind ourselves that the housing opportunities we have delivered have played a crucial role in dismantling the discriminatory legacy of apartheid spatial planning, in providing dignified living conditions to millions of people, and in building resilient, vibrant, and sustainable communities in our province through these housing initiatives.

Lebogang Maile, MPL

Member of the Executive Council (MEC) Gauteng: Department of Human Settlements & Department of Infrastructure Development

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The Transformation Journey: From Housing to Human Settlements

By Morongwe Mashoko-Chounyane

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements has been at the forefront of a transformative journey in housing delivery since 1994, profoundly reshaping the urban landscape and improving the quality of life for Gauteng citizens. This transformative path began earnestly with the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), which established a vital socio-economic framework aimed at eradicating the legacies of apartheid by providing fully subsidized housing to qualifying beneficiaries.

As the department evolved, it embraced the challenge of upgrading informal settlements, fostering communities with full access to essential infrastructure, legal land tenure, and vastly improved housing conditions. This initiative has not only formalized numerous settlements but also established social compacts that drive community development and social cohesion.

The approval of Gauteng Housing Act in 1998 laid the groundwork for structured and sustainable housing solutions, which was exemplified by the launch of Cosmo City. This pilot project in mixed housing development marked a significant shift towards creating diverse, integrated communities that cater to various income groups and include necessary social amenities and economic hubs. Cosmo City has since flourished, becoming a vibrant community and a model for subsequent projects.

Further advancing its agenda, the Department embraced the Breaking New Ground (BNG) initiative in 2004, which aimed to develop integrated and sustainable human settlements. This strategic approach not only enhanced living conditions but also led to the ambitious Mega Projects Human Settlements Strategy launched in 2015. This strategy aimed to transform spatial development planning from the apartheid era, seeking to weave together a new urban fabric that promotes inclusivity and socio-economic integration.

The implementation of Mega Projects in 2017 marked another milestone, with massive housing and human settlements developments designed to be self-sustaining urban areas that provide seamless access to residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. These developments are not just



housing projects but vibrant communities in integrated and sustainable human settlements, crafted to enhance the urban experience and promote a balanced lifestyle for their residents. Currently, there are 33 Mega Cities across the province, each at different stages of implementation.

Recognizing the needs of those not served by traditional housing subsidies, the government introduced the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme in 2012, now rebranded as First Home Finance. This program assists individuals in the 'gap market'-those who do not qualify for fully subsidized housing and cannot meet the financial requirements for conventional mortgage loans-by facilitating more accessible home buying opportunities for first-time buyers. This initiative complements large-scale housing developments and aims to close the gap in the housing market.

Complementing this effort, the department recently launched the Ikageleng Rapid Land Release Programme, which enables beneficiaries to build their own homes on government-provided serviced stands. This approach not only alleviates the housing backlog but also promotes personal investment in property development.

Moreover, the department's efforts have not only focused on housing per se but also on generating employment opportunities, with projects creating over two hundred thousand jobs in recent years, through our Expanded Public Works Programme, which also impacted positively on the Gauteng Government's Economy Revitalisation Strategy, thereby contributing to Gauteng's economic vitality.

Over the past 30 years, the department successfully provided over 1.3 million housing opportunities to the citizens of Gauteng, improving the lives of about over 3.5 million people. This comprehensive approach has fostered greater equity in housing, contributing to the overall upliftment of underprivileged communities.

This journey of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements illustrates a deep and ongoing commitment to transforming urban spaces into inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant communities. Each initiative and project not only address the immediate needs for shelter but also weaves into the broader tapestry of community development, economic empowerment, and social integration, setting a benchmark for housing delivery programs worldwide.



Grateful that Government Kept its Promise

By Mary-Jane Sidambe

Meet Rosina Konyane, an elderly Lufhereng beneficiary who finally got her house as per the government's promise. Before this house, she had been renting at many different informal settlements.

"I'm relieved that I don't have to worry about rent issues anymore. This is home for me and my grandchildren, one of whom is disabled and therefore needs proper housing", said Konyane.

Having applied for an RDP house in 2003, Konyane would always attend housing allocation meetings under trees and in some instances would take buses to go to Pretoria for meetings and was often scared she would die without ever receiving a house.



Gogo Konyane urges the rest of the Lufhereng community who stay in informal settlements to remain hopeful and patiently await their turn. RDP house was the best Christmas gift ever

Pablos Nhlapho (68) applied for an RDP house in 1996 and was allocated his home in December 2023. "This house is the best Christmas gift ever for me and my family", said Nhlapho.

Having his own home has brought him peace as he was staying in a family house that came with family feuds. Nhlapho emphasised that he is relieved to be his own man at his own home.

Nhlapho encourages everyone on the waiting list to maintain hope, reassuring them that their houses will come. 'Have hope and pray. If you hold onto hope and pray, you will succeed,' he concluded.



Gauteng's Journey from Apartheid to Inclusive Development



By Tahir Sema

The landscape of human settlements in Gauteng has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past three decades, a period bookended by the end of apartheid in 1994 and the present day. This transformation has been driven by a concerted effort to address the historical injustices of the pre-1994 era, characterized by a spatial dichotomy that consigned black South Africans to the periphery of urban development. The legacy of this era was a wasteful and unsustainable pattern of human settlements, marked by spatial fragmentation and inequitable access to resources.

Post-1994, the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) has made commendable strides in service delivery and housing provision.

The province has witnessed an increase in the proportion of the population living in formal dwellings, with access to basic services improving dramatically.

This progress is evident in the significant reduction of informal dwellings from 24.1% in 1996 to 11% in 2022, and the near-doubling of households in formal housing. The GPG's approach to housing delivery has been innovative and multifaceted. Mega or catalytic projects have been instrumental in achieving diversity and promoting spatial justice. These projects, coupled with the redevelopment of hostels and the upgrading of informal settlements, have begun to reshape the urban fabric of Gauteng.

Since 1994, the Gauteng Provincial Government has made significant strides in housing delivery, creating more than 1.3 million housing opportunities benefitting no less than 3.5 million people through the provision of 347,014 serviced sites and 798,094 housing units. Additionally, the province has issued 378,920 title deeds as a guarantee to land ownership to qualifying and deserving beneficiaries. This translates into towns and cities that would have rose out of the ground that would have never been there before. Despite these achievements, the housing waiting list remains long and formalization of townships has been slow.

The journey toward equitable and sustainable human settlements is far from complete. The province continues to grapple with the challenges of rapid urbanization, in-migration, and the need for job creation. The pressure to meet these demands must be balanced with careful planning to avoid the pitfalls of urban sprawl and inefficient resource management.

The GPG's focus on integrated human settlements planning, is a testament to the commitment to strategic development. Yet, the absence of common baseline data and the lack of effective demand measurement tools remain obstacles to efficient service delivery. The GPG's efforts to transform human settlements in Gauteng represent a significant departure from the exclusionary practices of the past. While progress has been made in improving service delivery and housing opportunities, the province must continue to innovate and collaborate across governmental spheres to ensure that the benefits of development are equitably shared.

Only then can Gauteng truly overcome the legacy of apartheid and build a future where all residents have access to dignified and sustainable living conditions.

Celebrating 30 Years of Service Delivery: Changing apartheid spatial planning; building integrated, sustainable communities since 1994.

By Thabani Luhlongwane

As South Africa marks three decades of democracy, the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements proudly reflects on its pivotal role in transforming housing and urban landscapes. Established post-1994, the department has been instrumental in addressing apartheid's spatial divisions, creating inclusive and sustainable communities that uphold the dignity and aspirations of all citizens. A journey to self-actualization starts with the ability to respond to basic needs effectively, as Maslow taught us, and human settlements are at the heart of nation-building and conscious molding of a patriotic citizenry.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) of 1994 introduced subsidized housing, a program that afforded beneficiaries an opportunity to acquire a house built and provided by the government.

This policy ignited the flame of what would later become a massive, multi-layered project to deal with socio-economic issues. Despite some initial challenges in implementation, the subsidized housing program was so well received that the houses became informally known as RDPs.

Many other policies and laws dealing with housing and human settlements have been legislated since then, including the Gauteng Housing Act 06 of 1998, Gauteng Rental Housing Act: Unfair Practices Regulations of 2001, Rapid Land Release Programme: Serviced Sites and Strategy of 2020, Gauteng Housing Allocations Policy of 2021, and Gauteng Mega Projects Contracting Strategy of 2023. These laws and policies have consolidated inter-governmental relations and structured stakeholder collaboration in Gauteng. The policies further promote access to justice through security of tenure and seek to increase asset-based wealth for previously disadvantaged people.

While acknowledging the shortage of habitable

land and discouraging acts of land invasions, the department has formalized a number of informal settlements and continues to move communities from unsafe portions of land into safe, habitable spaces, in pursuit of eradicating informal settlements.

Furthermore, in partnership with its entities and agencies, the department has launched many products and services aimed at improving the lives of Gauteng citizens. These include First Home Finance, which offers funding for first-time homebuyers in the gap market; the Ikageleng Rapid Land Release Programme, providing access to serviced sites for eligible beneficiaries; Kasi4Real, assisting with startup financing for township rental businesses; and the Rental Housing Tribunal, which mediates



rental disputes between tenants and landlords in residential areas.

The commitments made in the recently hosted GPG Construction Expo and the State of the Province Address around the development of mega cities, funding opportunities, skills development, job creation, upgrading of informal settlements and hostels, and fasttracking of the title deeds roll-out programme speak to a solid commitment to respond efficiently and effectively to ongoing challenges.

The journey has been long, and there is still much to achieve with very limited resources. Despite the challenges, we are still a government at work, with a firm commitment to building Gauteng together!

Here's to another 30 Years of Service Delivery and transformation! Cheers!



eTSHUMELO



Sisters get houses same day and place.

By Luzuko Pongoma

n a rare occurrence, sisters, Maditaba Nhlapo, 55, and Mmamohau Motaung, 52, who applied for houses on the same day 21 years ago, were both allocated houses at Helderwyk.

The sisters have been staying in Holomisa informal settlement since 1997. Nhlapo said she is going to share her new home with her children and grandchild while Motaung is going to stay with her child.

The beneficiaries who have been allocated houses at Helderwyk come from Holomisa informal Settlements, Windmill Park, and other surrounding informal settlements in the area.

In line with reversing the apartheid special planning, the Helderwyk Mega project seeks to bridge the gap between different classes and races of people in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng and South Africa.

It also aims to bring people from previously disadvantaged communities closer to working opportunities. Situated in Brakpan, the Helderwyk mega project is now a home to about 500 previously disadvantaged people



who could not afford to live in the leafy suburb of Helderwyk. The project offers a wide range of housing units that will see different classes of people being accommodated based on different qualification criteria.

When completed the project will yield over 13 000 mixed housing units. These units will include around 6000 RDP houses in the form of RDP Flats and stand-alone houses. It will also have about 300 houses for military veterans. The project will also consist of over 1500 houses linked to First Home Finance (Gap houses) and 2800 fully bonded units. Helderwyk mega project also has bonded sectional title units (Flats) and social housing apartments.

In the allocation of the 500 beneficiaries who now call Helderwyk their home, the elderly, people living with disability and child headed households were prioritized.

Couple receives their house on wedding anniversary



By Boitumelo Thema

Samuel and Annah Mahlangu are a married couple from Boiketlong informal settlements whose 4th wedding anniversary was made even more special by the gift of their house from the government. The Mahlangus were pleasantly surprised when they received a call from the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements about being allocated a house at the Boiketlong Mega project in the Vaal.

"We applied for a house in 2002 and have been waiting since that day. Our dream has finally come true", these were Samuel's words while a visibly excited Annah had this to say, "Ka nnete, mamello e tswala katleho' in seTswana, meaning, it is true indeed, patience brings success.

Looking deep into each other's eyes, it was obvious that "love lives here." The couple expressed their gratitude to the department for a job well done.

The Boiketlong Mega project consists of Sebokeng Ext 30 and 28, and the Lethabong project. Upon completion the project will yield 12250 mixed housing units and over 1200 service stands.

Housing Policy Bears Fruits for Orphan

By Sithembiso Mkhize

There shall be houses, security, and comfort. This vision came to fruition for an orphaned teenager when he was given keys to his own house at the Helderwky Mega City in Ekurhuleni. Simphiwe Fakazi, who recently celebrated his 20th birthday, was due to leave the Home Sweet Home shelter he called home because he was over age.

Expressing his gratitude, Fakazi said, "I am overjoyed to receive a home from the Government. This unexpected gift came at the perfect time. I am deeply thankful to the Gauteng Government for their consideration."

Gogo Matshidiso Makgabane, Fakazi's mother from the orphanage, noted that he would have been homeless if compelled to vacate the orphanage as required by the rules. "There is no dustbin for young people. If Simphiwe leaves the orphanage home as required by the rules, where is he supposed to go because this is the only home, and I am the only parent he knows?" asked Gogo Makgabane.

Fakazi was amongst 48 people given keys to their houses by the Minister of Human Settlements, Mmamoloko Kubayi, and Gauteng Department of Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development MEC, Lebogang Maile.

Speaking during the housing hand-over ceremony, MEC Maile pointed out that building houses are not new; it started in 1994.

"Since then, the Gauteng Province alone has housed more than 1.3 million people. Yet more than 1.2 million people in the province are still looking for houses.

"It is against this success that we became the enemy of our own doing. People come



to Gauteng to look for opportunities like jobs, health, and other development needs. Before all that, people need a roof over their heads," said MEC.

Upon completion, the project will yield 10,000 to 15,000 units and consists of different housing typologies, such as Breaking New Grounds (RDP), bonded houses, rental stock, First Home Finance, and the Rapid Land Release programme.

eTSHUMELO

A Family with Cerebral Palsy Child Prioritized



By Luzuko Pongoma

The prioritization to allocate a house to a family that has a child living with a disability has brought joy to the mother. Tumelo Matlou, a mother of three children, said the space in her new home will improve the life of her children. Matlou said that she rented a backroom shack with her family in Daveyton and the living conditions were not good because one of the children has cerebral palsy.

"We did not have space to stimulate my child, like doing stretches and that made it difficult for her to thrive and grow," she said. She said she was lucky to be prioritized as a special needs case and allocated a house in Tsakane.

"The community here is beautiful. I am loving it here. I have space and my child will thrive and

grow accordingly. We live near stores and the hospital. Everything is working out quite well," said Matlou.

She thanked the department for taking up her case because of her child's condition which needed good space and hygiene.

Sam Mahatlanne, Director for Stakeholder Management said that after a letter detailing Matlou's plight was directed to MEC Lebogang Maile, the department started its investigation. Mahatlane said request for people to be regarded as special cases came from different stakeholders such as, concerned community members, the media or councilors who alert the department about people in dire circumstances.

"Cases that we consider include those of people living with disability, child headed households, the elderly.

We do an assessment based on the strict policy on whether to prioritize a person," he said. Mahatlane said after investigations they liaise with relevant units to see how the person can be assisted.

"Some of the houses have to meet specifications such as ramps for wheelchairs and bigger doors, so it takes time and also the department does not have houses waiting for people and to find a site or project also takes time," he said. Mahatlane said Matlou was approved for a subsidy and that made the case a bit easier. He warned that the special case application must not be used to skip the housing queue because their vigorous investigation will expose people.

A Special Gift for Child with Special Needs

By Boitumelo Thema

A family with a special needs child has been given a special gift: a government house with water and electricity, which will improve their lives.

Andiswa Mokadimotso was allocated a house based on her child's special needs, as she is raising a 9-year-old child with a disability.

"We have been living in a shack since 2008, and it was tough as I have a child with special needs who requires special care and attention," said Mokadimotso.

She said she was grateful to the government for taking them out of a shack and giving them a house. Their shack had no running water and electricity, conditions not conducive for a child, especially with severe health conditions.

According to Mokadimotso, the new house in Clayville will change their living circumstances



and improve their quality of life, especially with running water and electricity.

She noted that electricity will enable her to properly store the child's medication at the right temperature, especially in the summer. She can now take care of the child without worrying about her living situation.

During the handover, MEC Lebogang Maile said, "The government cannot afford to allocate funds to all people on the needs register.

However, the government will continue to prioritize special cases like Mokadimotso, such as elderly people, people with disabilities and special needs, and child-headed families."

Mokadimotso is one of 168 beneficiaries whose lives have been changed and enriched by being allocated a house at the Clayville Megaproject in Ekurhuleni.

MEC Maile was together with Ekurhuleni MMC for Human Settlements Councillor Kgopelo Hollo and MMC Community Safety Councillor Sizakele Masuku. The Clayville Mega project is an integrated housing development expected to yield more than 14,000 housing units.

Home for child headed family

By Luzuko Pongoma

19-year-old Refiloe Chaba lived in Vosloorus where she shared a one room house with her two older siblings. Her late mother, Sweetness Nkosi, applied for a house in 1996 and it was approved in 2020. After being chosen by her siblings to be the executor of their mother's estate, Chaba is now a home owner in Palm Ridge, Ekurhuleni. Being allocated a house she can call her home will improve her quality of life as Refiloe will get to have some privacy and the same goes for her siblings.

"I am happy, having a home will give me freedom and space," she said.

Lindiwe Khonjelwayo, Director for Beneficiary education and Customer Care in the

Department, explained that not all children whose parents have died get to receive the houses. "The Department was approached by the Dzulani Children and Youth Care Centre from Vosloorus about Chaba's dire living conditions and we knew we had to step in and accelerate the house allocation process", said Khonjelwayo. Khonjelwayo further encouraged all stakeholders, which include the Master's Court, the Department of Social Development, Department of Education, Non-Governmental Organisations, community leaders and members of communities at large to play their role in assisting child headed households.

"After the Department has allocated them a house, other stakeholders must step in.



For instance, Chaba is doing her matric, she needs all the assistance she can get to further her career and to also be taught how to parent herself," she concluded.





By MaryJane Sidambe

Getting their own piece of land to build their own house is an answered prayer and dream come true for Nomawethu and Thabang Makokoe, who are beneficiaries of the governments' Rapid Land Release Programme. The Makokoe's are parents to a 22-year-old son with a disability who was supposed to have undergone certain operations but couldn't because they lived in places which were not safe and conducive for his recovery and healing.

Nomawethu states that they had been on the waiting list since 2008 and that nothing had happened but didn't give up hope.

"We tried and tried and tried and when this opportunity for the land release programme came, we decided to try again. It was in October 2023, when we heard that the department was taking applications for those who want to be beneficiaries of the Rapid Land Release programme," said Nomawethu. Even though the couple was suspicious they decided to give it another try. "We said, let's give it a try because we have been renting for our entire lives and we are a family of seven and it's been very difficult.

"We didn't trust this because there are so many things happening around South Africa, people will promise you this and that, only to find out that this is just a lie.

After receiving an SMS, that their application had been approved they went to the

department's offices where they signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which assured them that they had not been scammed or taken for a ride.

Nomawethu disclosed that she suffered depression because of not having their own place for a long time and having to move around every now and then.

"It has not been easy for the past 23 years but finally God has answered our prayers and we are going to build a home, something that we never even dreamed of even to see ourselves here. I am grateful to the government that is leading us. I can finally say that at least I am a true beneficiary of our government. I have got something! Thank you so much".

The serviced stands consist of water, electricity, roads, streetlights, sanitation, and a drainage system. The size of the stands is 250 m2, valued at R150 000.



Gauteng Landscape Will Shock Apartheid Architects

By Nthele Motsepe

The media landscape is bursting at seams with criticism for government's failures – some real, others perceived.

This is to be expected – especially in a country where freedom of expression among many others remains sacrosanct.

After all, the Fourth Estate is not just society's watchdog, but a mirror through which we ought to see ourselves. It is an important institution through which all civil servants must have their proverbial feet properly held to the fire. Having said that though, it is equally important to strike a counter balance. They say, don't they, that in our attempt at discarding what is wrong, we must never ever throw the baby out with bathwater.

As the new South Africa marks her 30th anniversary, the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements should be able to look back with pride for having achieved strides of lasting significance - spatial transformation which is mostly likely causing the forefathers of apartheid to tremble in their graves.

The architects of apartheid, dead and living, must be particularly nettled by the integrated spatial transformation offered by Mega Cities such as Riverside View, Clayville, Fleurhof, Savanna, Elijah Barayi, Dan Tloome, just to mention a few. Today, the 30-year-old South Africa showcases new housing opportunities comprising serviced sites and housing units in Gauteng alone. This does not only serve to alleviate the housing backlog and transform the country's tapestry: it continues to ensure security of tenure.

In keeping with the mantra of saving the baby as we discard the water, it is only fair to recognize that the department has, through its agency, the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF), completed thousands of units within the rental and social housing projects and student accommodation projects.

In the fullness of time, the tapestry of the Gauteng City Region will indeed jar sharply against what the architects of apartheid had envisaged. The narrow ethno-linguistic subcultural cleavages which characterized many townships is fading very fast.

Apartheid ministers would be blinded by different typologies interlacing the province, thanks to the unapologetic transformation agenda. Subsidies such as the First Home Finance and Rapid Land Release Program are already transforming the lives of people who neither qualify for RDP housing subsidy nor bank mortgages.

These appropriations are offering fully serviced stands and top-up housing funding. Throughout this 30 years spatial transformation journey, thousands of previously disadvantaged people continue to acquire Construction, Project, Financial, and

Land Stands will be Home



By Sithembiso Mkhize

This stand is not just a stand, but it will be a home for my family, says 23-yearold Emmanuel Seboi, a beneficiary of the Ikageleng Land Release Programme in Devon (Impumelelo), in the Sedibeng District Municipality. "I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity; I can start my own family after building myself a home. This stand is not just a stand, but it will be a home for my family," said Seboi. Seboi is one of 450 beneficiaries who were allocated serviced stands in Devon, by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements.

Among the recipients of a serviced stand was 52-year-old Ntombi Nkosi, a mother of two and a grandmother of four. She had this to say, "I cannot wait to start building my house, so that my children and grandchildren have a home. Another beneficiary, Khanyisile Cebekhulu, 35, pointed out that she does not qualify for an RDP house and is currently renting at KwaThema. "I am grateful to the government for this initiative, I would not have been able to buy a house and also I do not qualify for an RDP house," she said. Cebekhulu said that she is excited for her stand and that she and her husband can finally build a home for their children. The handing over of stands and certificates is part of the Gauteng Government's commitment to addressing the shortage of housing in the province. The Ikageleng programme is aimed at supplying fully serviced stands to people who can build houses for themselves.

The stands are sized at 260 – 270 square metres and come with water, sewerage, and electricity connections. In addition, they are serviced with tar roads and streetlights.

Inspectorate Management skills and general building skills under the department's skills development initiatives - with women being the biggest beneficiaries.

As doomsayers continue to lament the shortcomings, it is only fair to celebrate these achievements and anything that remotely riles the apartheid architects. It is clear that if one migrated to Jupiter or Mars for an extended period, one would not be able to recognize the Gauteng landscape upon return. Yet, in a vortex of political contestation, such tremendous achievements can indeed remain hidden in plain sight.

Kudos!

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Keys to a Better Life

Photography By Amanda Khoza



Home At Last





Reconstruction Development Programme

The introduction of subsidized

housing, giving qualifying beneficiaries an opportunity to

acquire a house built and provided by the government.

P

• 1994

01997

The Housing Act 107 of

To promote sustainable housing development by creating a comprehensive framework to improve access to adequate housing for all South Africans.



02001

Gauteng Rental Housing Act: Unfair Practices Regulation Rules and regulations for tenants and landlords in rental dispute mediation. This led to the establishment of the Rental Housing Tribunal.

Launch of Cosmo City Mixed Housing **Development Pilot Project** The pilot of a mixed housing development for mixed income earners, social and economic

O 2010

Alternative Building Technology (ABT) Pilots

building technologies (IBTs) in various pilot projects in the three Gauteng metropolitan upgrading within the 20 Prioritized





GDHuS NEWSLETTER

journey.

The Constitution of the **Republic of South Afric** Constitutional rights affirmed housing as the cornerstone of nation buidling, its enactment into law coincided with the implementation of the RDP programme and the beginning of the spatial transformation

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06 of 199

The Act paved the way for the establishment of the provincial housing advisory board and fund and promoted the facilitation of housing development in Gauteng.

02002 Gauteng

GPF

Partnership Fund (GPF)

public entity that is an implementing agency for the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements. **2004 Breaking New Ground**

10

Strategy Due to the success of the Cosmo City pilot project, the Gauteng Provincial Government launched a comprehensive plan for the development of integrated and sustainable human settlements.

GDHuS NEWSLETTER

GAUTENG PROVINCE

8



Land + Title Deeds = Security





Young Woman Raises Flag in Construction Industry

By Mary-Jane Sidambe

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) continues to record a rise in the number of previously disadvantaged women changing the status quo in opening doors of entrepreneurship in the construction industry.

Elaine Khutsiso Phala stands to be counted in her trailblazing career in construction. In having established Tshellaine Holdings (Pty) Ltd post, her dedication to learn about effective student accommodation business during her time as an accounting student at the University of Johannesburg, she continues to be audacious in her entrepreneurship streak with the number of 500 students housed under Tshellaine Holdings.

Phala said that the journey as a woman in construction in particular being a property developer has been a major learning curve for her. "I use the analogy of construction itself to best describe the journey. During the process of building, construction is filled with disruptions, challenges, hardships, stumbling blocks...but the outcome is a beautiful product worthy to be proud of. The journey thus far has been exciting, and I have grown as a person," she said.

The challenges Phala experienced in the industry made her to push herself and view the challenges as lessons, and always ask herself what can be learnt from the challenge or difficulty.

"Being a female in construction, there is a perception that we can't be the head and lead the project - we are only supposed to be project managers, architects etc, but I have managed to change that narrative that young women are able to head projects.

"The biggest highlight of the business is developing our own state of the art student accommodation, a six-storey building which



uniquely stands out and it represents the spirit of our company which is to be bold and never give up on your goals and dreams," said Phala.

Empowering and developing skills in the construction sector



By Amanda Khoza

The Department of Human Settlements has been working towards empowering and developing skills in the construction sector over the years. From 2019 to 2023, the data shows the department's contributions to the economic recovery and reconstruction, including employment creation to the total number of 23,526 jobs that were created.

The skills development initiatives have focused on empowering women, youth, and people living with disabilities. The department has provided training opportunities and support through the contractor development programme and a total of 1,178 people have been trained. The skills programme has focused on technical training and mentoring in various construction trades, including painting, plastering, bricklaying, carpentry, roofing, and plumbing. The department has also provided business training and mentoring on construction management, construction project management, finance for non-finance managers, contracting and compliance, occupational health and safety, and inspectorate.

The department's development initiatives have resulted in the allocation of 24,853 houses to rightful and qualifying beneficiaries, especially the elderly, people with disabilities, women, military veterans and child headed families. By investing in the construction sector, the department is also advancing communities, creating jobs and stimulating economic participation and growth.

The department has partnered with various organizations to conduct these skills

development initiatives, such as the National Home Builders Registration (NHBRC) for compliance, business, and technical trades; the Department of Public Works for assessing skills gap and new venture training and finance; Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), for grading system and registration process; the Labour Department for compliance and legislations (including UIF and Basic Conditions of Employment Act 1997); and SARS for tax compliance.

MEC Lebogang Maile has noted that it is important that contractors undergo a structured development process so that they can grow, develop, and eventually compete within the mainstream.



Communities Urged to Protect Their Homes

By Luzuko Pongoma

Communities must work with government and law enforcement authorities to protect human settlement developments that will benefit them.

This was a message by MEC Lebogang Maile during the handover ceremony of 208 houses in John Dube mega project at Duduza in Ekurhuleni. The project was launched in 2018 and when completed it will yield over 18000 mixed housing units.

"I want to congratulate you all, as the first 200 people to be allocated in the project. This project was launched in 2018 but you are the first people to be allocated in it. This is due to a number of disruptions the project experienced," said Maile.

Maile said that because of the disruptions,

money budgeted for the project had to be returned to government and the jobs that were meant to be created were also not created. He also cautioned the residents against selling the RDP houses then returning to informal Settlements.

"As we are sitting here, the are no foreigners. All these houses are given to qualifying and deserving South African people. When we return for another allocation, we do not want to find foreigners operating spaza shops," he said. Maile said that the Department did not allocate houses to foreign nationals but South Africans that were rightfully allocated houses, either rented out or sold their houses. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Manini and Nhlabati, thanked the Department for ensuring that the houses were finally completed.



Nhlabati said that she was happy to receive her house after the long wait and she encouraged those on the waiting list to be patient as they will also receive their houses like them.

GAUTENG PROVID MARAN SETTEMBERS MARAN SETTEMBERS



The Townlands Social Housing Project, Marabastad launched

By Mary-Jane Sidambe

More than 1,3 million houses have been built in Gauteng by the democratic government since 1994, meaning 1.3 million families have been accommodated, Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Lebogang Maile has said.

He made these remarks during the launch of the biggest social housing development in the country, The Townlands Social Housing Project in Marabastad, Tshwane. He pointed out that to-date there are about 2 million people in the national needs register, 1.2 million of them in Gauteng being the economic hub of the country.

"That is why whilst we understand that the problem is big, we are also having a multipronged approach. We are not just having social housing for those who want to rent, because there are people who are saying we just want to rent, we don't want to stay in Gauteng for the rest of our lives," said MEC Maile. "Others are saying we want to rent because we cannot afford to buy houses. But there are those who are working and not earning enough, that is why we subsidized them. And there are those who say we want to build for ourselves, and we give you land through our Rapid Land Release Programme, and that land has got water, sewage, electricity and all other services, and not just that, we also give you seven different building plans to choose from. So, we are trying to solve the housing problem. We are not resting on our laurels", concluded MEC Maile.

The Townlands Social Housing development includes a community development centre with 176 one-bedroom units, 1012 twobedroom units and 12 three-bedroom units. The development includes, among others, an outdoor gym, sports facilities and a biometric access control system. The development is close to facilities such as transport, education, health facilities and other socio-economic amenities. The Townlands Social Housing Project will benefit South African citizens with a household income of between R1 850 and



R22 000, who have previously not benefited from any government housing scheme or subsidy and do not own property.

At the launch, MEC was together with the Minister of Human Settlements, Mmamoloko Kubayi, Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete, and MMC Ofentse Madzebatela.

The impact of rentals on Social Housing Tenants in South Africa

By Keletso Makeng

Gauteng as a province has a diverse housing landscape, comprising homeownership, private rentals, and social housing amongst others. Social housing plays a crucial role in providing affordable accommodation for those in need.

Recently, Gauteng Department of Human Settlements MEC: Lebogang Maile launched the Townlands Social Housing units in the City of Tshwane, Marabastad.

Social housing tenants must be aware of their rights and responsibilities which are clearly outlined in the housing legislation. Tenants' rights are governed by the Rental Housing Act and its Regulations. Understanding this can help tenants navigate their terms of lease more effectively.

Tenants should first engage with their housing Institutions to discuss their concerns if they feel there is a thread of an unfair practice. In most instances the Institution may be willing to work with tenants to find alternative solutions, such as payment plans or reallocation to smaller units. However, if they still believe that their desired outcome is not met, they are advised to approach their nearest Rental Housing Tribunal office to seek recourse.

If you're a social housing tenant facing issues related to residential housing, the Rental Housing Tribunal is here to assist you free of charge. Our team of experts are here to help tenants navigate the complexities in residential properties.

Looking for Affordable Housing:

The purpose of social housing is to contribute to the national priority of restricting South African society to address structural, economic, social and spatial dysfunctionalities. Social housing therefore contributes to widening the range of housing options available to the poor.

Criteria to Qualify

- Household income between R1 850 R22 000
- You must be 21 years or older
- Clean credit record
- South African citizen or permanent resident
- Married or single, with or without dependents
- Competent to contract
- Able to pay the required monthly rental
- To apply, contact Housing Company Tshwane
 on 012 358 4469
- For more information, visit **shra.org.za**





BUILDING HOMES

CREATING JOBS

EMPOWERING

GAUTENG



The GPF, an agency of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements, has been around for 22 of the 30 years since South Africá's democracy - leveraging over R3 billion from private and public sources, with more than R2 billion being directed towards vital affordable housing projects.

In that time, the GPF has contributed greatly to the national and provincial priorities. The entity has overseen the completion of about 23, 000 affordable housing units in Gauteng, while its developments have spawned over 130, 000 job opportunities.

The GPF, through public-private sector partnerships, innovative financing, and operational excellence, is an exceptional government partner. Here's to another 30 years, South Africa!

Find us via <u>www.gpf.org.za</u> or on social media for more information.

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GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER





MEGA CITIES Investing In Gauteng Infrastructure

In this Special Edition we take a look at the Department's Top Performing Mega **Cities Housing Developments**

INTRODUCTION

Section 26 of the SA Constitution states that everyone has a right to have access to adequate housing. Furthermore, the Housing Code of 1997 is the driver of Mega Cities. The concept of Mega Cities is a revolutionary approach to the delivery of Integrated Human Settlements that was adopted by the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG).

Mega Cities are a by-product of Mega Projects, a ground-breaking strategy developed by the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) to address and revise the apartheid-era inherited spatial development planning and develop new postapartheid integrated cities.

Mega Cities are massive housing developments that yield no less than 15 000 housing units per project.

The primary objective behind the adoption of Mega Projects by the GPG is to ensure that infrastructural developments in the Gauteng City Region are done in a manner that entrenches socio-economic integration.

Development of Mega Cities is done in a highly coordinated manner that includes all relevant sister departments linked to the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements (GDHS). The strategic approach is to ensure synergies across all related departments as well as to break down the silo mentality which was previously the modus operandi in government projects. These departments include Roads and Transport; Education; Economic Development; Community Safety; Sport, Arts, Culture, and Recreation; Health;



DAN TLOOME MEGA CITY



Dan Tloome is an Integrated Housing Development, situated 2.5 kilometres to the west of Randfontein CBD in the Rand West Local Municipality. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 22 000 Residential units with various typologies such as RDP/BNGs, Pensioner/Disabled, Military Veterans housing, Walkup apartments, Social

Rental Units, FLISP housing units, Bonded and Affordable Housing.

The development will also have social amenities and economic development which will include13 Schools, Creches, Community Centres, Shopping Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, Student Accommodation, Industrial Park, Urban Farming Proprietary Edible

Landscapes, Churches, 2 Filling Stations, Clinics, Medical Facilities, Hospital and Dan Tloome Precinct Area.

Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Mohlakeng, Bekkersdal, Wheatland Plot dwellers, Baipei Informal Settlements, Jabulani Informal Settlements and Mogale City.



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AFFRI-VILLAGE MEGA CITY



Affri-Village Mega City is in Randfontein within Rand West Local Municipality. The 1st phase of the project consists of 2 172 Multi-Storey BNG / RDP units. The other phases of the project will be in Magaliesburg and Tarlton respectively. It will have different typologies of housing units such as BNG/RDP walk-ups, FLISP housing units, bonded stock

and social housing units. The project will yield a total of 10 532 when completed. The development will boast of social amenities such as early childhood development centres, schools, taxi ranks, a convenient mall, a tilapia farm and a bottled water plant. Thus far, the development has created economic opportunities for 89 local contractors from

(Finsbury, Mohlakeng, Local Wards, Brandvlei, Toekomsrus) and over 514 job opportunities. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Ward 1: Bramvlei, Siyahlala, and surrounding plots. Ward 3: Baipei, Jabulani, and the surrounding plots. Ward 4: Mater, Randgate. Ward 9: OR Tambo. Ward 17: Waterworks, dumping site and Scrapyard.

RAMA CITY

Rama City is situated on portions of what used to be called the farm Kafferskraal and Wildebeeshoek, approximately 755 hectares in extent. The land was transferred to the Rama Community Property Association (RCPA) representing the community following the successful restitution of land process. In 2007, Rama Horizon Developments entered into a development agreement with the RCPA to develop the farm. Rama City promotes mixed-use integrated residential development in line with the Government's Breaking New Ground (BNG) strategy and will be implemented in phases over 10 years. It will consist of different typologies of housing units such as low-cost housing (RDP), Social

Housing, Financed Linked individual subsidy program housing (FLISP) Community Rental Units (CRU), Social Housing Units, Affordable middle-income housing units and Bonded housing.

The development is expected to yield a total of 17,771 housing units when completed, covering an area of approximately 500 hectares. The development will also have social amenities and economic development which will include 7 Primary Schools, 4 Secondary Schools,1 Clinic,14 Parks, 1 Shopping centre, 38 Industrial parks and 1 Municipal office. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Mabopane, Winterveldt and Garankuwa (Mawiga).



MONTROSE MEGA CITY



Montrose is a mixed housing development consisting of a mix of affordable housing, low-cost housing, and up-market residentia housing. The project is in the Rand West Municipality, on the South End, opposite Mohlakeng. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 13 792 when completed. The project will consist of the following typologies: BNG / RDP Housing, Community Residential Units, Social Housing, Multi-Storey BNG / RDP, Affordable Housing and Military Veterans housing units. The social amenities will include state of an art shopping mall, Schools, Medical facilities, a Community Centre, an Early Learning Facility, a Filling Station, Picnic areas, a Nursery/Crèche, Walking Paths, Children's Play Parks and a Facility of Religion resulting in economic opportunities and social integration. The revival of the middlevlei train station will add to the economic boost of the region as it will be an intermodal hub that synchronizes buses, taxis and passenger trains. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Ward 2: Sporong, Kocksoord, Finsbury and the surrounding plots.

Ward 13: Mohlakeng.

Ward 11: Informal settlement Ward 17: Waterworks, Mohlakeng, Bekkersdal, Toekomsrus, Bhongweni, dumping site and Scrapyard

JOHN DUBE VILLAGE MEGA CITY



John Dube Mega Village is situated on the vacant land abutting Duduza in the northeast, near Nigel. The bulk of this land (Portion 41 and Portion 77 of Grootfontein Farm) was acquired in the late 1990s by the City of Ekurhuleni for the purpose of housing development. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 18 073 and additional social amenities when completed, the amenities include a university. The benefi ciaries will come from Kwa-Thema, Tsakane and Duduza (Kwatsaduza), starting with Duduza.

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RIVERSIDE VIEW MEGA CITY

The Riverside View Mega City is an exciting Mega-Scale Integrated Housing Development, located within one of the fastest-growing economic nodes in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality close to Steyn City. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 10 105 mixed housing typologies when completed. The units will consist of 436 multistorey BNG/RDP units, 2949 Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) units and 3020 multi-storey social housing units.

The development is supported by

- Four schools,
- Developed parks and public open spaces,
- A shopping centre,
- Two fi lling stations,
- A multi-purpose centre,
- 2 Primary Schools,
- 2 Secondary Schools, Crèches,
- Clinic, Community Centre, and Pedestrian walkways.

The project is empowering the local communities through local employment and SMME initiatives and thus far over 12 409 jobs have been created. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Diepsloot, Ivory

Park and Greater Region A.

WESTONARIA BORWA MEGA CITY





GOUDRAND EXT 4



Gourand Ext 4 is a mixed housing development situated within the City of Joburg. The development will yield 13 197 mixed housing typologies when completed. The development will also have the following amenities:

- 3 business sites
- a shopping centre
- 4 industrial sites
- 5 schools
- 6 ECDs
- 6 religious' sites
- 1 clinic and
- 1 cemetery.

The benefi ciaries are from Sol Plaatje, Skon Plaas (Durban Deep), Braamfi sher and Zamimpilo Informal Settlement.



The Westonaria Borwa Mega Project comprises of high standard Fully Subsidised Housing (BNG/RDP), Bonded Stock, FLISP Housing, Military Veterans Housing and Social Housing / Rental Stock as well as economic, social and other communal facilities. The development is made up of various phases which will be implemented as separate projects to deliver the full scope of the development. The development is a true integrated mixed-use development with a wide variety of land uses. The social

HELDERWYK EXT 28 MEGA CITY

Helderwyk Ext 28 is an integrated Mixed Housing Development situated within the City of Ekurhuleni close to Carnival City. The Development will yield a total of 13 141 mixed housing typologies when completed. The units will consist of

- 1962 BNG stand-alone units,
- 3 964 BNG Walk-ups,
- 1696 FLISP,
- 283 Military Veterans,
- 2 327 bonded units,
- 1000 Rental stock,
- 1 473 Social Housing units and
- 436 sectional title FLISP.

The Development will also consist of the following amenities: a retail mall, commercial office park, industrial park, 12 schools, 17 ECDs, medical centre, 4 institutional facilities and 9 community facilities.



amenities will include Primary and Secondary Schools, Tertiary Education Facility, Crèches, Primary Health Centres and Hospital, Public Open Spaces and Functional Parks, Sports Recreation Facilities, Public Transportation Hub and Community Centres. The Project will provide access to secure socio-economic opportunities within walking distance, consequently reducing travel distances and costs. The planned regional shopping mall and industrial park will further serve to decrease the number of unemployed individuals, within and around the planned community, while simultaneously increasing household incomes and the earning power/ability of previously disadvantaged individuals. The planned ±16 000 housing units together with the variety of community facilities and economic opportunities that will be developed will positively impact the economy of the region. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Bekkersdal, Waterworks and Thusanang.



eTSHUMELO



CLAYVILLE MEGA CITY

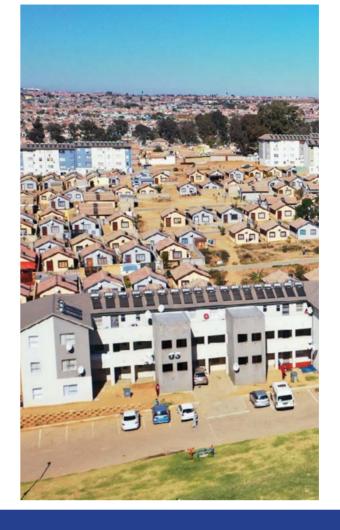
Clayville Mega City is an Integrated Housing Development, located within the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality near Thembisa, Kaalfontein and Rabie Ridge. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 14 138 Mixed Housing Typologies Units when completed. The units will consist of 5 260 multi-storey BNG/ RDP units, 5 380 FLISP units and 3498 Social Housing Units.

- The development is supported by
- Six schools,
- Developed parks and public openspaces,
- A shopping centre,
- Two fi lling stations,
- A multi-purpose centre,

Crèches, Clinic and Community Centre.

Currently, there is one private school and one mobile clinic. The project is empowering the local communities through local employment and SMME initiatives. Over 11 700 jobs have been created to date. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from Madelakufa 1 & 2 informal settlements, Freedom Square, Greater Tembisa area.

FLEURHOF MEGA CITY







Fleurhof is an Integrated Housing Development, on the western side of Johannesburg. The development will offer an estimated development yield of 11 400 different typologies of houses when completed. The units will consist of 3236 BNG units, 1334 Community Rental and Social Housing units, 2122 affordable housing units and 4708 GAP / Rental units. Eleven (11) stands are reserved for mixed-use business and retail opportunities. The development will also have social facilities which will include

- Seven early childhood development,
- Five primary and secondary schools,One community centre,
- Five places of worship and
- Twenty public parks.

Benefi ciaries will mainly come from the old hostel, 1996/97 applicants of surrounding areas, Zamimpilo Informal Settlements, Florida, Newclare, Westbury, Eldorado, Davidson, Noordgesig, Riverlea, Meadowlands, Diepkloof and Orlando.

SAVANNA CITY

Savanna City is an integrated housing development in the Southwest of Johannesburg. The development will yield 18 399 mixed housing units when completed. The different typologies of housing units consist of fully subsidised (BNG/RDP) units, FLISP subsidised units, bonded houses, and military veterans' units. This project will also include • 16 schools,

- A conservation area of 400ha together with public open spaces,
- 32 institutional sites, clinics, churches,
- social facilities and • 9 commercial and retail opportunities.

ANorth-South spine road links all the economic and social facilities. Communities can easily access Stretford train station and the new 30 000m2 Eyethu Mall, within 3km from the project site and will boost economic and social integration. It is estimated that Savanna City will provide 54 900 employment opportunities during the ten-year construction period and 12 700 permanent employment opportunities after completion. The development is also 20 minutes from Johannesburg CBD, with easy access to the mall of South and Southgate mall. Benefi ciaries will mainly come from the Midvaal, COJ and Emfuleni areas.



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Housing Opportunities

33 Mega Projects at various phases changing the landscape of our developments and building inclusive communities.



CUSTOMER SUPPORT CENTER

The mandate of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements is to provide housing opportunities and facilitate the development of sustainable, integrated human settlements. The Department offers its subsidies and services through its Customer Support Centres in Regions;

Region	Customer Support Centre
Johannesburg	129 Fox Street, Johannesburg Marshalltown 2107
Ekurhuleni	68 Voortrekker Rd, Nevada Building, Alberton
Tshwane	50 Hamilton Street, Gilboa Building Corner Hamilton and Edmond street Arcadia
West Rand - Mogale City	56 Kruger Street, Corner Burger Street, Lubners Building Krugersdorp, Mogale City
Vaal Region	28 Market Avenue, Vereeniging, 1930



All Gauteng Department of Human Settlements email queries: **GDHuSInfo@gauteng.gov.za**





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where