



**the premier**

Department of  
the Premier  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

## Media Release

### PROVIDING DECENT HUMAN SETTLEMENT, AND REVERSING THE LEGACY OF THE 1913 NATIVE LAND ACT

**December 16, 2013**

It is often said that December is a time for giving. The Free State Provincial Government is staying true to that cause.

MEC for COGTA and Human Settlements, Olly Mlamleli – along with the Provincial Executive Council- will hand over houses and title deeds to beneficiaries in Petrusburg on Tuesday December 17 and Bluegum-Bosch in QwaQwa on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the anniversary of the 1913 Native Land that sought to deprive people of the right to land, the handing over of title deeds, reversing this legacy, is in keeping with the promise made by the Freedom Charter's security of tenure clause: 'There shall be houses, security and comfort.' In October this year, MEC Mlamleli issued over 7500 title deeds to municipalities for further handing over to beneficiaries of government-subsidised homes.

As part of Operation Hlasela held in Petrusburg during 2012, the Provincial Government has now committed to embark on a programme of completion of all incomplete houses. A project of 40 houses was undertaken and is now been completed and ready to be handed over to the beneficiaries on 17 December 2013.

Some of the beneficiaries in Petrusburg include Oupa Dirk Pienaar, an over 80-year old loner who lives in Sonder Water. This of course, further emphasizes the assertion that - as per the Freedom Charter - South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. Nkgono Sophie Lekau, born in 1920, is also one of the proud beneficiaries.

During Operation Hlasela earlier in 2013, The Free State Provincial Government visited Bluegum- Bosch where 500 two-roomed houses were identified to be demolished. Since then, the Provincial Government has acted swiftly in completing over 350 houses of the targeted 500 for this financial year. The completed houses are now ready to be given over to their beneficiaries, on December 18, 2013. The handover programme in Bluegum-Bosch will see Mme Rosina Rabodinyane (65), of house 1236, benefitting. She lives with her grandchild and great grandchild.

In an effort to heed the call of all aspirant homeowners and restore human dignity, the Free State Provincial Government has recently handed over houses in Schonkenville, Tumahole, Oranjeville, Deneysville, Dealesville, Rocklands and Heidedal in Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, and many other place throughout the province.

It remains the Provincial Government's main prerogative to meet its commitment to ensure that deserving citizens are housed decently. As in the spirit of the late former President Dr. Nelson Mandela who said - "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended." In taking cognisance of his teachings, the Free State Provincial Government concedes that the backlog of decent human settlements is far from over, however with every day that dawns, in his memory the government is effectively ensuring that South Africa is indeed a much better country than it was before 1994.

**Both events will start at 10am on their respective days.**

**All media houses are invited to attend these milestone events.**

**Issued by the Free State Provincial Government Communication Services.**

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