MEDIA STATEMENT

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15 000 HOMES TO BE GIVEN TO BENEFICIARIES BEFORE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

BHISHO – 15 000 or even more homes will be delivered to their beneficiaries throughout the province as part of a turn around plan to up-scale the delivery of houses in the province by spending the R1,2 billion conditional grant and applying strict monitoring systems on housing projects in the province.

The 15 000 homes are some of the priorities for the remainder of the financial year which have been categorized to deliver and spend the allocated funding. The first phase include flagship projects which are the combination of new and less problematic projects including four additional projects from the list of blocked projects in Mount Ayliff: 700, Mount Frere:341, Matatiele,306 and Flag Staff 503. Second tier includes rectification of defective houses, rural projects, thunderstorm projects and current running projects.

Municipalities playing role of developers will be closely monitored to avoid impediments and hiccups on housing projects by the contractors who are expected to build and complete the houses in six months. Having met with contractors, municipalities and public and financial sector institutions, MEC for Housing and Safety & liaison Thobile Mhlahlo has invited the financial sector institutions to be involved in housing development particularly rental housing.

For the past three years, the province has been utilizing social housing institutions for the provision of rental stock. “The banking sector has not been fully involved in the rental market within the province,” Mhlahlo said. He said rural projects have been clustered to entice financial institutions to invest government housing projects. “It is incumbent that we cluster the rural projects to create attractive figures for the financial institutions.”

The area of collaboration for the province include the provision of rental stock( acting as developers and financiers), provide finance for social housing tenants who are opting to purchase their units, affordable housing for middle income group, provision for top up finance to social housing institutions, packaging & bridge financing land acquisition.

The department will up-scale development of rental and affordable housing by providing alternative tenure for housing beneficiaries. “We have currently advertised for offers from land owners with a view to acquiring land well located for housing development. The department may partner with respective financial institutions in the development of various housing options depending on the demand.”

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