MEC MLHLHLO TO SPEED UP RECTIFICATION OF DEFECTIVE HOUSES IN EC

An amount of 75 million rand has been allocated for the rectification of about 19,000 defective houses built after 1994 and MEC for Housing, Safety and Liaison Mr Thobile Mhlahlo has committed to speed up the process of rectification and deliver houses to the people.

“The quality of these houses was poor that we could not let people occupy them as it would have compromised their safety,” Mhlahlo said. Contractors who built the houses are under investigation by the department in an effort to recover the monies paid to the contractors.

Some of the houses which form part of the projects include Chris Hani, Ukhahlamba and Buffalo City Municipalities which are already under way. Projects in Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo, King Sabata Dalindyebo municipalities and other areas in the province will start soon. The provincial and national technical committees for housing visited the sites last week to assess extent of damages and requirements for rebuilding. Process for awarding the tender has already begun. The defects to be rectified include cracks, foundation, doors, roof tops and others identified on site. “We want to handover houses that people can live in and be proud of, hence we are starting this process of rectifying them so that people can have quality houses,” MEC Mhlahlo said. The rectification of houses will not affect the building and delivery of new houses in the province.

NHBRC has been appointed for the rectification of projects in Ukhahlamba, Chris Hani and Buffalo City Municipalities. A process to appoint a contractor for other areas is under way.

As part of his intervention plans, Mhlahlo also visited municipalities, met with contractors and property developers in an effort to attract contractors to rural projects, ensure proper project management of housing projects and contractor capacity to handle large volume of housing projects.

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