

KZN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONTINUES TO SET THE PACE AND BLAZING TRAIL IN HOUSING DELIVERY

Nkosinathi Nene

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, R.R Pillay seems to have not lifted his foot on the service delivery accelerator after making a clean sweep in most of the categories at the National Govan Mbeki Awards a fortnight ago.

His commitment to providing shelter and sustainable human settlements to the people of KwaZulu-Natal is again demonstrated today as he is currently visiting Okhahlamba Local Municipality to officially launch Dukuza A Rural Project in Bergville. A total sum of R68 million rand will be spent towards 500 units in ward 4 and 5.

The day's proceedings started with a visit to officially hand over two houses to the Dlomo and Vilakazi families. Mr Thulasizwe Dlomo (37), who is disabled and lives with his wife and two kids aged 9 and 11 years, was leasing a house in the Dukuza Area in ward 4. Inkosi Hlongwane then allocated a piece of land for the building of a permanent shelter for him. Mr Dlomo said he was even embarrassed to be called a family man, because he could not provide a shelter for his wife and children. He thanked the Department and all stakeholders involved for helping him to realise his dream of providing shelter for his family.



MEC Ravi Pillay is welcomed by Thulasizwe Dlomo

MEC Pillay then proceeded to hand over the second house to Vilakazi family. MEC Pillay said he was rather handing over this house on a sad note because Gogo Agnes Vilakazi (84) passed on in June 2018 before she could witness his presence during this day.

“I am also happy for the fact that I know that she is looking down upon us wherever she is with a happy face because her family is living in a secure and comfortable house,” said Pillay

MEC Pillay urged the remaining family members to take good care of the house and respect the fact that Mr Bonginkosi Jali Vilakazi was the one nominated by the family to take over Gogo Agnes’s house.

“This work we do is not because we are clever but it is because this government is a government that cares for the poor and needy. We will continue to strive for a better South Africa for all even with the limited resources that is at our disposal,” said Pillay. Addressing Dukuza community members, MEC Pillay said there are five key priorities that the government is robustly trying to achieve: Grow the economy; continue to fight and eradicate corruption; radical economic transformation (redistribution and sharing the economy/ land issues); building a capable state; keeping our communities united.

MEC Pillay thanked the community for their patience and said that the department unfortunately cannot build houses for everyone at once because of the available budget. “We will continue to build houses for our people by spreading the available budget to the whole of KwaZulu – Natal,” concluded Pillay.