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**Author:** ANDILE SITHOLE



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KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Peggy Nkonyeni (left) shakes hands with beneficiary Mandla Sithole.

# SOLOMON RESIDENTS receive new homes

**ANDILE SITHOLE**

>>Andile.sithole@media24.com

RESIDENTS of Solomon Mzolo in Greytown saw their dream of owning their own homes turn into a reality when the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Peggy Nkonyeni, issued almost 500 title deeds to new beneficiaries on July 26.

Nkonyeni, together with uMvoti Municipality Mayor Thamsamqa Ngubane, officiated the handover of 497 title deeds to eligible beneficiaries.

At the handover, Nkonyeni told residents that the government shall never repossess the houses of people who have defaulted on their water and lights payments because of them being unemployed.

Nkonyeni added that all municipalities have an Indigent Policy which caters for

people who cannot afford to pay for municipal services because of their economic situation, such as those who are unemployed or those who rely solely on social grants for money.

“There is no way that this ANC-led government can build you houses for free and when you fail to pay for municipal services, these houses get repossessed by the municipalities in lieu of the owed debts for either water or lights,” Nkonyeni said, to which the more than 1 000 residents who had gathered in the marquee for the handover applauded thunderously in approval.

The MEC said that those who are working should endeavour to pay for the services that the municipality is providing to them and those who are not working should register with the municipality under the Indigent Policy for relief.

She said the handing over of title deeds

to Solomon Mzolo Village residents was an affirmation of a security of tenure to the eligible beneficiaries and a certainty that no one shall ever threaten them with eviction from their government-issue houses.

Nkonyeni said the title-deed handover ceremony was the first public event since her tabling of the Department of Human Settlements’ R4 billion 2019/2020 Budget Policy Speech in the Legislature in Pietermaritzburg a week earlier.

Mayor Ngubane said it was fitting that the Greytown 497 Housing Project had been renamed Solomon Mzolo Village in honour and acknowledgment of the sacrifices of local struggle stalwart Solomon Mzolo, who tirelessly fought for the rights of the people of Nhlalakahle at the height of the struggle until he met his untimely death on the eve of the first democratic election in the early 1990s.