



Human Settlements and Public Works  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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IsiFundazwe saKwaZulu-Natali

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**Ref: 2014 GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS CEREMONY**

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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUBJECT: KZN HUMANS SETTLEMENTS WINS NATIONAL 2014 GMA**

SANDTON – In yet another feather in the KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements' cap in housing provision, the provincial Human Settlements Department swept clean the stakes at last night's national Govan Mbeki Awards - scooping eight awards and the coveted overall Best Performing Province category - during a glittering ceremony held at Sandton Convention Centre.

Among the categories that the KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements Department saw it beating hands down its other eight counterparts include the Best Priority Project (Cornubia Integrated Residential Development Project) and the best Enhanced People's Housing Process (Vulindlela Housing Project).

The two projects are presently the Province's mega housing projects worth more than R25 billion with an expected yield of more than 75 000 units in the forthcoming years.

Last night's impressive win could not have come at an opportune time as it happened on the eve of Human Settlements and Public Works MEC Ravi Pillay about to announce the Human Settlement's **R3, 6 billion Budget Policy Speech for the 2014-2015 fiscal year in the Provincial Legislature later today (Friday 15 August 2014).**

"The Govan Mbeki awards we received last night are a powerful vote of confidence in our ability in KZN to get the job of housing delivery done. We are very excited. I want to congratulate our staff and all the municipalities who have worked hard to get these results," said MEC Pillay.

He added that the Human Settlements Department's track record in the delivery of affordable homes was a powerful one.

“I plan to announce a target of over 32 000 for the year ahead. This will be in 51 municipalities across our province. KwaZulu-Natal is a serious player in the national housing delivery market. We consistently meet our targets and spend our full budget.”

During the past financial year, the Department surpassed its target of 27 000 units by building more than 30 000 units. The Province remains the top performing Province in housing provision.

Govan Mbeki Awards recognise excellence and best practices in the provision of decent human settlements by various municipalities and contractors across KwaZulu-Natal.

The competing nine provincial Human Settlements Departments vie for top prize in various categories that include the Best Rural Housing Project, People’s Housing Process, Best Accredited Municipalities, MEC’s Merit Award as well as the Best Student Award

Formerly known as the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards, the GMA is a special programme initiated and led by the National Department of Human Settlements.

The Awards were named after the late struggle stalwart Govan Mbeki in 2006 based on the role he played in human settlements, partnering with key partners in order to further the cause of building a nation free of inequality.

In addition to show-casing and demonstrating excellent work done by the Department, the Awards also promote best practices in the delivery of the core mandate of the Department while simultaneously motivate and honour all stakeholders and role players in the human settlement value chain.

These include developers, building contractors, the banking sector, community-based organisations, building material suppliers and professional associations of consulting engineers and quantity surveyors.

**NB: For radio colleagues, please also find attached two sound bites in isiZulu and English by MEC Pillay on being the best performing Province in housing delivery**

***Issued by:***

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