

Woman-led builders deliver on time

GINISILE NDOVELA

IT'S 952 down and 48 to go!

That's the tally for the delivery of houses in the KwaMavundla Tribal Authority area.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlement Ravi Pillay handed over 952 houses to people from the area on Friday.

At the ceremony, held outside Gamalakhe, the MEC said he appreciated the quality of work, which was delivered on time and within budget by the construction company, Fezeka Business Services.

Fezeka is a woman-led enterprise, which Pillay said set an example of what is required by government.

"Last week I met Public Protector Thuli Madonsela and we discussed the poor quality of the houses that have been built by other contractors in the province," he said.

"The Office of the Public Protector

WE WILL HAVE NO MERCY FOR [BUILDERS WHO DELIVER POOR WORKMANSHIP]. Ravi Pillay, KZN Human Settlement MEC

got complaints from the people saying that the houses had been poorly built. We will spend R300 million to rebuild and finish their poor workmanship."

Pillay said people who resorted to poor workmanship, bribery and corruption would not be tolerated. "We will have no mercy for these people."

Before the handover in the KwaMavundla area, Pillay handed over a house to an elderly woman at Bhobhoyi, outside Port Shepstone.

She had been identified as a poor person in need of housing and other government services through the premier's Sukuma Sakhe programme.

The MEC also handed over help to the Tembe family — a woman with a disa-

bled father and husband — at Nkulu, also near Gamalakhe. The family had also been identified by the Sukuma Sakhe programme.

Hilda Tembe told *The Witness* her family had lived miserably in a shack and that government officials and a councillor had once visited her, offering her a house.

"I am very, very happy. I am thankful to them because I didn't know what to do."

Hibiscus Coast Mayor Cynthia Mqwebu congratulated the new home owners and declared that the government was fulfilling its promise to build houses for the poor.

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