



MEC Ravi Pillay, Cllr Afzul Rehman and Thandi Ndlovu get ready to build



Volunteers express happiness

# Foundation set for Women's Build Project

**The Annual National Women's Build Project, an initiative by the National Department of Human Settlements is hosted by a different province every year. This year it will be hosted by the KwaZulu Natal. The launch of this massive project took place at Kwamathukuza, Newcastle on Tuesday last week.**

In celebration of Women's Month and the historic 1956 March, in which 20 000 women marched to the Union Building in protest of the pass laws, 56 houses will be built in the Kwamathukuza area.

Provincial MEC for Human Settlements, Ravi Pillay together with the Mayors of Newcastle, Dannhauser and the Amajuba District, Municipal Officials, Councillors and the community of Kwamathukuza were present for the official launch.

The day began with a stake-holder's breakfast in which local business people pledged money, furniture and other necessities towards the homes.

The project will be undertaken by the Provincial Department in conjunction with Newcastle Municipality, the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC). A hundred volunteers from within the community will work hands on, on the project while gaining skills in the process. According to the MEC over R1 million will be spent on training these individuals who will also receive a stipend from the Department while working.

Newcastle Mayor, Cllr Rehman thanked the MEC for fast tracking certain projects which were deemed important so that the community could benefit.

Rehman said that the area had been in a desperate state prior to 2009 and since taking over in the same year, change has come about.

In his address, MEC Pillay revealed that there are currently 14 projects planned for Newcastle alone.

The MEC praised Thandi Ndlovu of Moteko construction, the contractor on the project. He labeled Ndlovu as a dedicated and driven woman who was a role model to her community. Through a rigorous selection process, the homes were awarded to families in desperate need. One such recipient was Mama Jabulile Motaung who also marched in 1956 to the Union Building. Mama Motaung touched and inspired the audience as she recalled the historic day. The homes are expected to be completed at the end of the month.