

**REPORT BY THE MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
AND PUBLIC WORKS JOMO SIBIYA
DURING THE SITTING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF PROVINCES**

**Ministerial Briefing Session: *Provincial and
Municipal Progress in Developing Integrated and
Sustainable Human Settlements***

8 March 2022

The Chairperson of the NCOP: Honourable Mr N.A Masondo

Honourable Minister of Human Settlements and Ms M.T Kubayi

Honorable Members

Introduction

We appreciate the opportunity to address honourable members of the National Council of Provinces.

As the KZN Department of Human Settlements we are inspired and encouraged by the robust engagement we have witnessed since this morning.

We will continue to rely on the NCOP as a critical pillar of our democratic dispensation.

Synergising, as it does, the functioning of government at national, provincial and local levels, the NCOP is also

about engendering participatory democracy and promoting inter-governmental relations.

This morning, our Minister reflected on key programmes outlining progress in Developing Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlements.

Minister's Bold leadership and visit to KZN and areas such as Nquthu

We remain grateful to the minister for the bold and decisive leadership.

She has visited the deep rural areas of KZN such as eThekweni, UMgungundlovu District, Harry Gwala District and Nquthu Local Municipality to monitor the delivery of human settlements.

In Nquthu, the first and last housing project was launched and implemented in 1997 with a budget of about R115 million. This project, with a target of more than 1 196 beneficiaries, experienced teething problems during the initial stages.

However, with the support and guidance of the Minister we deployed a roving team of experienced experts and officials in the built environment to ensure speed and efficiency.

We have used emergency housing programme under Operation Sukuma Sakhe to rollout much needed human settlements with a budget of over R80 million.

Chairperson, it was heartwarming to witness our Minister joined by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza; and Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Dr Nobuhle Nkabinde during the handover of some completed houses to local communities.

Communities appreciated the fact that the Deputy Minister of Minerals Resources and Energy donated *5000 solar geysers*. This has ensured that rural communities have access to hot water.

Importantly, Minister Thoko Didiza launched the One Home, One Garden campaign. The reality is that the greatest impact of the coronavirus has been the closure of industries and job losses in many sectors of the economy. This has resulted in many people condemned into the conditions of poverty and squalor in the townships and rural areas.

The only hope for the people who are facing crippling unemployment and rising food prices, is their government.

Minister Didiza ensured that more than 400 deserving households of Nquthu, who were identified using the Multiple Deprivation Index were assisted. They received seeds and gardening implements as part of One Home, One Garden.

This campaign is aimed at reducing the impact of food insecurity and in building self-sufficiency in agricultural

production. Minister continues to visit KwaZulu-Natal and she was in Hammarsdale over the past few days.

Chairperson, we are highlighting these visits by the national ministers to demonstrate the enduring spirit of partnership.

Our minister has been promoting an integrated approach involving all spheres of government in the rollout of human settlements.

Houses for Military Veterans

Critically, our Minister has also intervened decisively to address the issue of the provision of housing to military veterans.

We wish to report the following progress:-

- 4 houses for military veterans have been complete at Alfred Duma Local Municipality;
- 19 houses are at the different stages of construction (18 Illovu in eThekiwini and 1 at Ilembe District);
- We have 77 sites at uMshwathi Local Municipality and 20 sites at Copesville under Msunduzi. These have been set aside for the construction of houses for military veterans mainly to decant the Aloe ridge invaded flats;
- 200 sites are planned in Berkerville for Military Veterans.

We once again thank the minister and the national government under President Cyril Ramaphosa for the support.

Mdletshe Rural Housing Development – R340 million

Honourable Members, just last week we were joined the Premier Sihle Zikalala, the leadership of Umkhanyakude District Municipality and local traditional leadership to hand over 300 completed houses of Phase 1.

We have set aside R340 million for the Mdletshe Rural Housing Project which will see the rollout of R2500 human settlements units. The premier launched Phase 2 of this project in Big Five Local Municipality.

JBC Housing Development – R1 billion

Chairperson, we wish to report that the more than R1 billion *Johnston, Blaaubosch and Cavan Housing Development Project* in Newcastle is going well.

The JBC Housing Development project is packaged to ensure an Integrated Residential Development Project (IRDP) with a focus on delivering service sites for people in the affordable market.

We are also paying special attention towards increasing the supply of middle-income market housing to meet the high demand.

We are moving with speed to complete more than 22 857 rental housing units across the province, which are geared towards affordable Social Housing and Community Residential Units (CRUs).

The Social Housing instrument will yield a total of 16 399 units and the CRU instrument will yield 6 458 units. Our visit to Newcastle must therefore be viewed as part of our efforts aimed at ensuring that we meet our targets.

The Hospital Street Social Housing Project in Newcastle, with a budget of more than R387 471 436,80, forms part of our determination to expanding our footprint for affordable rental housing beyond the urban centres.

Construction stimulating local economy

We are playing an active role in terms of stimulating local economic investment by using construction and built environment as a catalyst. We want to prevent the migration of people to bigger cities in search of job opportunities and a better life.

We have ensured the acquisition of skills and jobs for the young people of townships and rural areas. We want to prepare them to part of efforts to grow the local economy. In the future, they will generate much needed revenue for the local municipalities.

Our investments in rural and township areas should be viewed within the context of creating well-paying job opportunities for professionals in the built industry and other sectors of the economy.

Taking away Developer Status

Honourable Members, on another important matter.

The minister is in support of our efforts aimed at putting to end all practices that results in housing projects that are forever under construction.

The Minister and our Premier are firmly behind a decision of taking away developer status from municipalities that are failing to deliver houses to our people. We are taking away the Developer Status from municipalities such as Umthonjaneni.

Beneficiary List

Critically, the minister is also supporting us as we deal decisively with corruption associated with the allocation of houses and the overall administration of beneficiary list.

We are currently revising the policy as we have realized that politicians, especially councillors are abusing the beneficiary list by allocating houses to friends, relatives and other individuals who are not deserving.

We wish to reiterate our firm stance that we will never fold our arms when deserving community members are sidelined by rogue elements that are manipulating processes associated with the compilation of beneficiary list.

We remain the custodian of the rollout of human settlements – therefore, the bark stops with us. We will never abdicate responsibilities given to us by the members of the public.

Disaster Relief Interventions

Honourable Members, we wish to turn our attention to the issue relief packages to communities affected by devastating storms during the months of December and January.

We have provided relief packages of more than R48 2 million to communities of UMsunduzi, Umngeni, Mandeni, Ndwedwe, Nquthu and Umthonjaneni to name but a few.

We wish to reiterate that the Disaster Relief Programme is based on policy that applies to everyone irrespective of political party affiliation.

We know that there are communities that have been affected in other areas. We offer to move with speed to assist them.

An application to National Department of Human Settlements has been submitted to obtain additional funding for the construction of around 3847 temporary shelters.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we wish to highlight the following project as we Develop and Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlements involving provincial government and local municipalities.

- Empangeni Mega Housing Project – City of uMlathuze Municipality. The Empangeni IRDP Housing Project will provide housing for 10,000 families. More than 30% of bulk services were

installed this financial year. The Department has targeted to service more 3,000 sites in Phase 2 over the next two (2) years.

- Cornubia Integrated Residential Development Project– eThekwini Municipality. About 28,000 houses will be delivered through this mega-project.
- In Phase 1, 2,662 units have been completed and 1,946 transfers effected to date.
- In Phase 2, the tender is underway for the appointment of a civil contractor.
- Construction is anticipated to commence in June 2022. Planning has been finalized for Phase 2B and has been submitted for SPLUMA approval.
- The procurement of the Planning Consortium is underway for Phase 2C/2D.
- uMlazi Urban Regeneration – eThekwini Municipality. There are various phases and projects in uMlazi and a total of 19,160 houses have been built to date. There are 330 units in construction in the current project known as uMlazi Part 4 and Part 3, extension of Part 4.
- Amaoti Greater Housing Project – eThekwini Municipality. Detailed planning for the first phase of this project was completed this year. The coming

financial year will see detailed planning being completed for Phase 2 and 3.

- Inner City Regeneration– eThekweni Municipality. Four social housing projects, with a total yield of 958 units, were packaged - and allocated to Social Housing Institutes (SHIs) in 2021/22. A further 1,367 units from six (6) social housing projects will be packaged and allocated in 2022/23. The overall Inner City Regeneration project will realise 10,580 units.
- Bridge City – eThekweni Municipality. This catalytic project will yield 30,000 units once complete. Planning for a social housing project consisting of 1,130 sites was completed in 2021/22. Construction of this project will commence in 2022/23. The coming financial year will also mark the planning of two (2) more social housing projects with a total of 1,212 units.
- Kanku Road Project – eThekweni Metro: The Kanku Road Housing Project is an Informal Settlement Upgrading Project located within eThekweni Ward 90, in Isipingo. The project is to provide intended to clear the Isipingo Transit camp and provide housing for families residing therein.
- The project is approved to the value of R70, 5 million for 360 sites. Planning is complete and construction is now underway. Service installation is 95%

complete. House construction is underway with 130 houses at various stages.

Chairperson, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to address honourable Members.

We offer to work with the NCOP especially in monitoring and evaluating our work.

On behalf of the KZN government and the people of KwaZulu-Natal, I thank you