



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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3000 Title Deeds for Palm Ridge community

“I never thought this day would come when I would have a title deed to my house,” said 59-year-old Domani Makebi when he received his title deed at Palm Ridge, Ekurhuleni, on Friday.

Makebi who lives with a disability said he was so delighted and most grateful to get ownership of his house after waiting for a long time. He is one of 3000 residents to receive their title deeds in Palm Ridge.

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality MMC, for Human Settlements Cllr Lesiba Mpya, accompanied by the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements Chief Director Ms. Zanele Dhludhla, kicked off the handover of title deeds to residents of Palm Ridge, Ekurhuleni. The title deeds will be distributed through the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's extended programme where title deeds will be distributed per ward until the 9th March 2018.

Another title deed beneficiary, 68-year-old Solomon Sithole from Palm Ridge Ext 4, said he applied for an RDP house in 2002 and was allocated his house in 2011. “I am very happy and grateful to the Government for the house and title deed. I am very happy to receive my house and title deed in the right way, I still live in the same house with my children since my wife passed on,” said Sithole.

In his address to the community, MMC Cllr Lesiba Mpya said that a title deed is a very important document as it is about home ownership and security of tenure, as well as about poor households using their houses as assets to build wealth.

“We are here to give title deeds to the people and restore their dignity through security of tenure. We believe our people have been waiting far too long for the concept of ownership. They have heard about it, they have read about it but they have never experienced it. And we thought it is important that we make it a reality for them,” said Mpya.

MMC Mpya urged beneficiaries to protect their title deeds as “it is the only legal document that is proof that you are a homeowner and you must protect it, as it also gives you the right to leave the house as an inheritance for your children when you pass on.”

Ms. Zanele Dhludhla from the Department of Human Settlements told beneficiaries that a title deed and ownership also comes with the responsibility of building and supporting their local municipality by registering and being active ratepayers for the municipal services they will be

receiving. "Ownership of the property obliges the owner to pay property rates and services, thereby contributing to its ongoing sustainability," said Dhludhla.

She noted that some of the challenges faced by the Department around title deeds were the illegal and informal sale of RDP houses, discrepancies between current occupants and owners, untraceable beneficiaries and deceased estates.

The title deeds distribution campaign was officially launched by the Department of Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Paul Mashatile last year May, at Etwatwa and it is part of Government plans to eradicate title deed backlogs.

'Title Deeds are a guarantee to land ownership.'

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government. For more information contact the Department of Human Settlements – DDG: Keith Khoza on 082 823 9672 / 071 609 0010.

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