

Land and title deeds handed over to the Covie community in the Western Cape

30 April 2021

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia De Lille joined Deputy President David Mabuza and the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza today to handover land and title deeds to the Covie community in Bitou Local Municipality, in the Western Cape.

Leading the handing over ceremony, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform - Deputy President Mabuza said in handing over the land, Government is restoring the human dignity of the Covie community that was stripped off through colonial conquests and apartheid policy of segregation.

Mabuza said the Covie community could now begin to independently determine their future, secure their livelihoods and regain their human dignity.

The land handover to the Covie community is as a result of a restitution claim that was lodged by past and present residents of Covie village. The restitution claim will provide opportunities to a number of groups including the claimant community with their historical connection to Covie and direct experience of dispossession, as well as the broader Bitou community who live in the surrounding areas.

Minister De Lille said she was honoured to be part of the day of celebration for Covie residents, after a long restitution journey. She revealed that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure transferred more than 700 hectares of land to the Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Department, to finalise this particular restitution claim.

She said the Covie community lost their land and land rights under the apartheid government in 1978 and that Government is happy to finally be handing back the land rights to the rightful owners.