

SHACKS SET FOR DEMOLITION

R240m for new housing projects

Olebogeng Molathwa

Political Reporter

THE Gauteng government is to spend R240-million to eradicate informal settlements and build mixed-raced settlements.

One of those areas to benefit from the multi-million rand injection is Lady Selbourne in Pretoria.

In her state of the province address in the Gauteng legislature yesterday, Premier Nomvula Mokonyane recalled Lady Selbourne's apartheid past and vowed to turn the tables against its architects.

"Lady Selbourne is a reminder of our apartheid past, when its black residents were forcibly removed under the notorious Group Areas Act," she said.

"Today, we want to re-claim Lady Selbourne's non-racial history by developing 5 000 units over a number of years, commencing in 2013/2014."

Lady Selbourne, situated in the northwest of Pretoria, about 15km away from the city centre, started early in the 20th century as an area where black people could own

their own land.

After several years of attempts by the white minority government to remove black, Indian and coloured people from the area, it was eventually classified a Group Area in 1995, paving the way for the Nationalist Party government to forcibly remove those residents.

Coloured people were moved to Eersterust and Derdepoort, Indians to Laudium and black people to GaRankuwa, Mamelodi, Mabopane and Atteridgeville.

Once completed, the project "will eventually stand as a triumph of human rights in our country", Mokonyane said.

Meanwhile, the Diepsloot area is set to undergo a major facelift with development of a R1.6-billion industrial park that could create about 15 000 jobs upon completion.

On the health front, Mokonyane announced that 900 000 of Gauteng's 1.2-million HIV-positive residents were on ARVs while the Emergency Medical Services will receive 100 new ambulances to grow its fleet.



HANDS ON: Premier Nomvula Mokonyane at the opening of the Gauteng legislature in Johannesburg yesterday. PHOTO: VELI NHLAPC