



Nontakazana Mphulu stands on the foundation that was built 10 years ago.
Photo by Ayatolah September

RDP house still just a dream for Nontakazana

By AYATOLAH SEPTEMBER

TEN years ago, Nontakazana Mphulu (49) was happy because she thought at last she would own a house and stop living in a shack.

As Nontakazana watched the foundation of her RDP being laid, she dreamt of a new life for her two kids.

But nothing has changed since then. The builders ran away, leaving only the foundation, and Nontakazana still lives in her one-room shack at Masiphumelele, Fish Hoek, Cape Town.

"I've given up on ever getting a house.

"The contractors told me that I must either finish the house myself or pay them," she said.

"At the time I didn't have a job. Even now I work as a domestic worker and I don't have extra money."

She said their area is neglected.

"We used to complain but we had no luck. All we ever got was empty promises.

"There are many people in this area who have been approved for houses, but still haven't received them."

Nathan Adriaanse of the provincial human settlements office said: "The people's housing empowerment process and project resource team are currently investigating the funding model to complete all units which were not built by previous suppliers in this project.

"All blocked projects were forwarded to the special investigation unit, including the Masiphumelele project."



STATE of the NATION

WHAT A MESS!

People's dream of new clinic dashed



One of many cracked walls in the clinic.



Cupboards in the building have been vandalised.



A hole in the clinic ceiling.



A dirty toilet in the abandoned clinic.

By DULILE SOWAGA

WHEN the R4 million clinic was built, people in the area thought that their prayers had been answered.

But the building contractor did such poor work that the clinic was never used.

The building in extension 7 of Bela Bela, Limpopo, is such a mess that it was abandoned after being de-

clared unsafe.

It was supposed to start operating in 2009, but the ceilings have holes, the equipment is broken, tall grass is invading the building and many bricks have fallen out.

Residents have to go to the old clinic, which is so cramped that it uses containers for extra rooms.

Guards posted at the abandoned clinic said they were told to leave at the end of the month as the new clinic is no longer needed.

Limpopo Health spokeswoman

Sinenhlanhla Gumede told *Daily Sun* that the department will be talking to the public works department to see what can be done to address the concerns of residents.

Public Works administrator Mbuyi Dondashe said it's sad that government built the clinic to provide health services and now no one is benefiting.

"An internal investigation is being carried out to deter-

mine the role played by our project managers in this sad state of affairs," said Dondashe.

A technical team will be sent to assess what can be done to fix the new clinic.

"The contractor has been taken to court. The department is also planning to blacklist him," she said.

Readers with problems with the Limpopo Health Department can call MEC Norman Mabasa's hotline on 0800 919 191.

They have all they need — except water

By MANDLA MNYAKAMA

THE three-roomed houses have electricity, kitchen taps, basins, indoor toilets and baths.

But there's no water supply! The houses at Freedom Square in Nyanga, Cape Town, were completed in 2010 as part of government's Breaking New Ground

project. The beneficiaries started moving in 2011.

Residents fetch water in buckets from communal taps in the nearby Mpetha Square and Umkhonto squatter camps.

Sithonga Khathamzi (52) said he was disappointed to find that his toilet couldn't flush when he moved into

the house last year.

"It's as if we still live in shacks without water." Councillor Thobeka Gqada apologised for the city's failure to follow up on the problem. "We've asked the water and sanitation department to attend to the problem in the area as a matter of urgency," Gqada said.