

Brand new house for grandmother



An Umgababa grandmother, Mavis Khoza was over-joyed when KZN MEC of Public Works and Human Settlements, Ravi Pillay, presented her with keys to her brand new fully furnished home, on Friday 20 July.

The handover was part of the centenary celebrations for the late President Nelson Mandela.

The initiative to build Khoza the house was a partnership between the public and private sector. Leading the project was Habitat for Humanity South Africa, in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Human Settlements, eThekweni Municipality, Dezzo Holdings, Old Mutual and Nedbank. Receiving keys to her brand new two-bedroom house which includes

a huge lounge, bathroom and kitchen, an ecstatic Khoza couldn't contain her tears, saying she wants to live a long life so she can enjoy her new house.

"These are tears of joy. I'm thankful to government and all the partners who played a role in building this house. I will now sleep comfortably in my new house and new bed and be able to live a normal and dignified life like most people," said Khoza.

Khoza, with her daughter and two grandchildren used to live in a one-bedroom dilapidated dwelling made of corrugated iron. MEC Pillay said the house handover was a perfect example of how service delivery can be expedited if the public and private sector strengthen working ties. "I was happy to see various

stakeholders and volunteers coming together in restoring hope to the less fortunate," said MEC Pillay. EThekweni Municipality Councillor Mpume Ntshangase, said she couldn't think of a better way of honouring Mandela.

"I am certain that if he was still alive, he would have appreciated this project as he was very passionate about service delivery and changing people's lives for the better," said Cllr Ntshangase.

National Director of Habitat for Humanity, Patrick Kulati, said between 16 and 20 July, the organisation built 20 houses in ward 96, 98, 99 and 100. "The aim was to build 100 houses to commemorate Mandela's 100 years. The other houses were built in Johannesburg and Cape Town."



Mavis Khoza officially receiving her new house from KZN MEC of Public Works and Human Settlements, Ravi Pillay and members from Habitat for Humanity SA and eThekweni Municipality Photos: eThekweni Municipality