

DA has proud record on housing delivery

MATLHODI MASEKO

IN REPLY to Ebrahim Rasool's article: "Ramaphosa's visit exposed the DA hypocrisy", the DA's record on housing delivery in the Western Cape is outstanding.

We have delivered 212967 housing opportunities to the people and 103000 people received title deeds to own their home – in stark contrast to the massive backlog of title deeds in other provinces.

We have made great progress and there is still more work to be done.

We will be introducing a housing voucher residents will be able to spend on buying, building or upgrading homes.

R2.7 billion has been allocated to Human Settlements for the 2019/20 financial year. We have approximately 142000 housing opportunities at various stages of construction.

One of the biggest developments is the Forest Village Housing Project in Blue Downs, with the potential for over 5000 homes, as well as the Conradie Housing Project in Pinelands, which will deliver 3000 units and other major projects in the Cape Wine-lands and Southern Cape.

The DA-run City of Cape Town has allocated over R2bn to formal housing in the next three years, as well as R4bn for upgrading informal settlements.

Major integrated housing projects

already under way include the ideally situated Somerset Precinct at the Waterfront and the Belhar CBD development. There are also plans to put land in Parow, Tygerberg, Elsie's River, and Avondale to good use as affordable housing spaces.

Sadly, in housing as in other areas, the ANC is standing in the way of progress in the Western Cape.

The DA has pleaded with the ANC government to release large tracts of unused land owned by the national government which could be used for housing.

In the City of Cape Town alone, the national Department of Public Works has 397 unutilised properties totalling 3328 hectares of land.

Large parcels of land at Ysterplaat, Culemborg, Youngsfield, Wingfield and Denel have the potential to yield over 93000 affordable housing units.

But the ANC says no, while it loots the departments and entities that own this land.

The ANC has no plan of action, no premier candidate and no interest in the people of the Western Cape.

Only the DA has a plan of action to speed up service delivery, including housing provision. We will continue to fight for housing and services for all South Africans – not just the connected cronies of the ANC.

Maseko is DA Western Cape spokesperson on human settlements