



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Umuziwabantu Mayor Dixie Nciki (second from left) and government dignitaries at the handover of a house and title deed to one of the families in Harding.

Harding residents receive title deeds

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THE MAZAKHELE community of Harding, in the southern area of KwaZulu-Natal, was given title deeds by Umuziwabantu mayor Dixie Nciki and Department of Human Settlements officials at an event held in Harding last Thursday, March 28.

MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Ravi Pillay did not attend the event as expected, but was represented by Nonzwakazi Swartbooi, a member of the Human Settlements Portfolio Committee in the KZN Legislature.

There were 326 title deeds handed over to residents and government has

built a total of 500 units.

Pillay further said his department is celebrating the construction of 4.7 million houses since the dawn of South Africa's democracy.

Swartbooi said government has been focusing on education, health, fighting corruption, building a capable state, and unifying people under the banner of social cohesion.

"In 2014, we also pledged to build an additional 1.5 million houses nationally by this year and, as the KZN province, we have already put our shoulder on the delivery wheel to ensure that we realise the targets set back then," Pillay said, adding that housing projects in KwaJali and KwaMbotho have been implemented.

Other speakers at the event warned communities not to use title deeds as a guarantee when taking out loans from loan sharks.

Residents thanked government for the title deeds, saying they will take care of their houses and will not sell them.

"Owning a home remains the only demonstrable tenure of security.

"It provides stability and allays fears of being possibly evicted in case one is renting from a landlord. So, the first step in home ownership is the possession of a piece of paper called a title deed," Swartbooi said.

The Umuziwabantu mayor handed over house keys to a family of five, who thanked government.