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KZN Department of Human Settlements fulfils its mandate of 'restoring dignity and hope'

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements continues to not shirk from its historical responsibility and mandate of restoring dignity to those who have lost their homes.

The MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba upheld this message during recent interventions in needy cases in Dabhazi, Nongoma Local Municipality, Sinathing area of Edendale, Msunduzi Local Municipality, and KwaMazakhele in the uMuziwabantu Municipality in Ugu District.

During the public service week, Dr Mahlaba officiated at the handover of a Temporary Residential Unit (TRU) to Gogo Seseqphi Ndwandwe. The 90-year-old lives in Dabhazi, Nongoma Municipality's ward 10.

The department's intervention in the case of Gogo Ndwandwe followed numerous pleas for assistance and a social media posting that had gone viral for almost a month.

The Nongoma resident had been living in a makeshift shelter at an abandoned homestead of a neighbour for almost a decade, after her own house nearby had been destroyed during

a rainstorm in 2012.

Her makeshift shelter had deteriorated over the years and the thatched roof had begun to leak, but this never dampened her resilient spirit. Gogo Ndwandwe ekes out a living by selling grass seating mats to supplement her pensioner's grant.

On being alerted of Gogo Ndwandwe's dire plight, the MEC requested that an immediate intervention be actioned and that a TRU be built at her old homestead.

Together with the Mayor of Nongoma Local Municipality, Councillor Mangasa Mxwango as well as senior departmental and municipal officials, Mahlaba officiated the handover of the TRU to an elated Gogo Ndwandwe at a ceremony attended by appreciative neighbours during late September.

In another case of intervention in the Msunduzi Local Municipality during September, Dr Mahlaba had visited two families in the Sinathing area of Edendale at the request of the Elton Ngcobo Foundation. This followed the tragic passing of a three-year old child of one of the families, who had been electrocuted at a collapsing mud structure.

After visiting the Mokoena and Sibisi families in Sinathing, the MEC undertook to assist with the provision of two TRUs to the two families. The two TRUs were speedily constructed and completed in time for Mahlaba to hand them over on October 14, 2022.

At the beginning of October, the department also handed over a Operation Sukuma Sakhe disabled-friendly house to Michael Basi of KwaMazakhele, on the outskirts of Harding town in uMuziwabantu Local Municipality.

The house handover took place during the multi-department Operation Sigalelekile programme. The elated 52-year-old could not hide his happiness when MEC for Social Development, Nonhlanhla Khoza, on behalf of MEC Mahlaba, officiated the house handover together with municipal leadership.

During the same ceremony, KZN Human Settlements head of department, Mdu Zungu also handed over the house title deed to Basi, who uses a wheelchair following a disability he suffered during childhood.



The Department of Human Settlements has made several interventions in the uMuziwabantu Municipality's 39 s. MaZakhele Township, Sinathing in Msunduzi Municipality and in the Dabhazi area of Nongoma Local Municipality.