



Member of the Executive Council  
for Cooperative Governance, Traditional  
Affairs and Human Settlements

## **MEDIA STATEMENT: COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED FOR 2009-2010**

#### **MEC MOSEBENZI ZWANE**

The Ministry for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements was born out of the division of the former Department of Local Government and Housing as per national policy change; giving rise to two departments viz. the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the Department of Human Settlements. The mandates of these two departments are outlined in Outcome 8 for Human Settlements and Outcome 9 for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Individually explained, the vision for Human Settlements as articulated in Outcome 8 of the provincial outcomes is: *Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life.*

The vision for Outcome 9: *Responsive, accountable, and efficient local government system*, expresses the vision of the local government focused Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Our achievements in this period have been based on a firm foundation of an established cooperative governance approach as well as the spirit of Operation Hlasela, which emphatically demands that we work together to achieve more in an innovative and results driven manner.

Here we list:

- An innovative, Operation Hlasela approach in the development of human settlements. This has led to the province building bigger, no less than 50m<sup>2</sup>, differently designed houses with basic services; and where possible near places of work and socio-economic amenities.
- Through Operation Hlasela's Township Revitalisation Programme, we focused on the revitalisation of old townships such as Batho location and the eradication of two roomed houses.
- To ascertain security of tenure, 35 000 title deeds are being handed out throughout the province. Of these, 1 430 were handed out in Thaba- Nchu in August this year. Our systems are being improved to ensure handing out of title deeds at completion of houses.
- We have piloted various alternative building methods, designs, and materials that seek to address environmental issues such as energy efficiency, and optimising resources in using cheaper and faster methods of construction in various towns, thereby moving away from RDP houses. Six different show houses, of 57m<sup>2</sup> were constructed in Parys . Other improvements in this area of work include using mass based approach in construction, which results in creation of more jobs and development of local based skills that can be used in the maintenance of these houses.
- The 105 of the 200 trendsetting units have been completed in Marabastad. These are unique houses that exemplify our approach to human settlements.
- Planning of 12 000 sites was achieved over the 8 000 that were initially intended for planning.
- 24 700 houses were enrolled with the NHBRC to ensure quality.
- 20 232 houses were constructed and completed.

PO Box 211, Bloemfontein, 9300

Lebohang Building, 7th Floor, Cnr St Andrews and Markgraaff Streets, Bloemfontein

**Tel:** (051) 405 5732 **Fax:** (051) 405 4193



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## COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

- Following the national call to improve the functionality of municipalities, we have implemented the Local Government Turnaround strategy (LGTAS) and assisted municipalities to develop individual, customized Municipal Turnaround Strategies. All our municipalities commenced with the implementation of their strategies at the beginning of the municipal financial year on 1 July. Progress and impact will be assessed at the end of this month.
- Implementation of Operation Clean Audit programme with a view to improvement in Municipal Finance Management for achieving an overall clean audit by 2014. The Operation Clean Audit pilot in all municipalities in the Xhariep District is already showing results for better financial management and sustainability.
- Physical infrastructure installation through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, a labour intensive programme meant for the creation of employment, was one of the core services rendered by the department to address service delivery on water, sanitation and municipal roads.
- Establishment of credible integrated development planning and enhanced public participation in municipalities.
- Established inter-governmental structures at district and provincial level to enable better cooperation of spheres of government. This includes involvement of traditional leaders in development planning and related activities.
- As part of government's effort to ensure public access to government services, a total of 231 Community Development Workers (CDWs) have been deployed throughout all municipalities in the province. An additional 73 learner CDWs commenced with orientation training and will be placed (deployed) after completion.
- 294 of the 300 Ward Committees have been re-established and are functional.
- We have strengthened partnership with Traditional Leaders and Healers to promote traditional and cultural awareness, promotion of traditional medicine, indigenous health and practices, and overall traditional knowledge system.
- In response to the need for better sanitation, we have revitalised and upgraded VIP toilets in Mangaung and Maluti-a-Phofung municipalities; and are in the process of providing decent sanitation throughout the province.
- Lastly, we have provided training for Traditional Leaders and Traditional Councillors in ABET on Leadership and Community Development Work.

On the whole, we are proud to indicate that ground work has been done and the foundation has been laid for improved services to our people.

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