



Minister of Human Settlement Lindiwe Sisulu and MEC for human settlements in KZN Ravi Pillay arrive at Durban's ICC for the national Govan Mbeki awards ceremony last night.

PICTURE: GCINA NDWALANE

KZN housing projects tops at Mbeki awards

Thami Magubane

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements is the top provincial department in the country in terms of performance and delivery of housing.

This was announced by the Minister of Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu, at the Govan Mbeki awards, which were held in Durban last night.

The province collected a clutch of awards for a variety of housing projects.

KwaZulu-Natal won the award in the category of best community residential unit for the Glebelands development in Umlazi.

The province also won the best housing tribunal award and came third in the category for best integrated residential development programme for the Hilton Phase 3 housing project.

"The awards are meant to motivate all stakeholders in the human settlements value chain to harness the human and other resources in

accelerating housing delivery," said Sisulu.

She said the government had spent almost R170 billion since 1994 to provide housing for the indigent and vulnerable.

"We should repeat that at every opportunity, because failure to do so would be to forfeit the enormous gains we have made and to relegate this wonderful profession to be the preserve of naysayers," she said.

Sisulu said there was still a great deal to achieve.

"We have committed to delivering 6 million houses and subsidies by 2019 and this we shall do.

"We are at 4.4 million houses and subsidies currently, so we have 1.6 million to go.

"Basically this translates to 400 000 houses and subsidies per year, which is doable.

"Until we have reached 400 000 per year, no official of human settlements, whether at national, provincial or local government level, will receive a performance bonus," Sisulu said.