



**Department of Human  
Settlements and Public Works**

**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**OFFICE OF THE MEC**

**Private Bag X 54 366  
DURBAN  
4000  
Tel +27 31 261 8997  
Fax +27 31 261 8157**

The Mayor of Hibiscus Coast Municipality, Cllr NF Shusha

The Mayor of Ugu District Municipality, Cllr, Cele

Deputy Mayor of HCM,

Speaker of HCM

Councillors

Distinguished guests

Our President, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma, has said that this year must be the year of effective service delivery. It must be a year when government makes sure that services are delivered swiftly, smartly and efficiently to our people. President Zuma understands our people and their needs. He sees that housing is a huge need in our communities. This is why he has added human settlements to the top priorities of government.

But he has also said that we don't just want to build houses for our people. We want to build communities. We want places where people can live, sleep, eat, work and play. We want houses to be close to transport, schools, clinics, medical and sports facilities and close to where we work. We want our houses to be in a place where our children can grow up safely, where we know our neighbours where we look after each other. We want sustainable human settlements.

A sustainable human settlement is a place where communities can learn, live, eat, work, sleep and where the children can grow and play. This is what President Zuma has said and this is what I, as the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works and my staff of the Department of Human Settlements are committed to delivering to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. In order to achieve this we have to work together with other government departments and other spheres of government such as local and national government. There have to be partnerships.

Today we have a good example of such a partnership. We have here the Mayor together with councillors and officials of the Hibiscus Coast Municipality as well as people from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements. Both teams have worked to ensure that the Louisiana Project becomes a reality. This is a very good case of heeding the call that “working together we can do more.”

As the Department of Human Settlements and Public Works we are also committed to improve our service delivery levels. We understand that we have been entrusted with a huge responsibility to urgently provide decent shelter to our people. We are prepared to respond positively to a call by our President, Mr. Jacob Zuma to work hard and utilize public resources effectively and efficiently. We will embark on a campaign to encourage adherence to the principle of Batho Pele among our officials. We will not tolerate laziness. We want to adopt the end-user approach and be people centered. People should feel free to engage us and make their constructive inputs in terms of ways to speed up the process of provision of quality houses in our province.

Let me now move on to what our Department has been doing and plans to do in this area. We have 11 human settlements approved for the Hibiscus Coast Municipality. They include:

<b>KwaXolo Rural Project</b>	Rural In Situ Upgrade	Stage 2- Construction	<b>R 62,848,450.00</b>	1000 SITES	Construction of houses underway with about 50 houses completed.
<b>KwaMavundla Project</b>	Rural In Situ Upgrade	Stage 2- Construction	<b>R 64,319,220.00</b>	1000 SITES	Construction of houses commenced
<b>KwaNdwane Project</b>	Rural In Situ Upgrade	Planning Stage	<b>R 2,442,350.00</b>	1000 SITES	The Professionals have been appointed and have been instructed to finalize the Tranche 1 activities.
<b>Masinenge Project</b>	Slum Clearance	Planning Stage	<b>R 62,174,096.00</b>	800 SITES	The Professionals have been appointed and have been instructed to finalize the Tranche 1 activities.
<b>Bhobhoyi Project</b>	Slum Clearance	Stage 2- Construction	<b>R 24,429,845.00</b>	711 SITES	Construction of houses underway with about 581 houses completed.
<b>KwaNzimakwe Project</b>	Urban Greenfield	Stage 2- Construction	<b>R 54,466,146.00</b>	1813 SITES	600 houses already built. Project is stalled due to bulk infrastructure for sanitation.
<b>Merlewood Mixed Income</b>	Mixed Income	Planned stage		235 SITES	Submission to be presented to the next HEAC for reduction of sites from 372 to 235 and adjustment of the house size from 30 sqm and 40 sqm.
<b>Rehoboth Care</b>	50 Beds	Planning		50 BEDS	Submission to be presented

Centre		stage			to HEAC
<b>Mkholombe Project</b>	Slum Clearance	Planning stage	<b>R 120,300.00</b>	1300 SITES	The professionals are finalizing the layout for Mkholombe taking into consideration the new Laws on wetlands.
<b>Albersville LOT 7</b>	Urban Infill Sites	Planning stage	<b>R 1,345,500.00</b>	87 SITES	Hibiscus municipality to submit an application pack to DOHS
<b>Uplands Project</b>	Urban infill sites	Planning Stage	<b>R 16,585,000.00</b>	1000 SITES	Issue of Butterfly which stop the project.

The combined value of the human settlements for the Hibiscus Coast municipality is in excess of R306 million.

### **THE LOUISIANA SLUM CLEARANCE PROJECT**

The Louisiana Slum Clearance Project was first identified in 2002 by the late MEC for Housing, Mr. D.H. Makhaye. The then Department of Housing KwaZulu Natal advanced to the Hibiscus Coast Municipality an amount of R18 000 000.00 (eighteen million rands only) for the aforementioned slum clearance project.

In October 2003, the Louisiana slum clearance project was granted a conditional approval for 1000 subsidies and funding to the value of R10 946 000.00 (R10 946 x 1000 sites). T On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2010 (this year) I as the MEC for Human Settlements approved the funding for the top structures i.e. the houses to be built.

Since then there has been tremendous progress on this project. So far 694 Beneficiaries have been approved and we already have 50 houses that have been completed. This

project will cost R52, 529, 809.26 and we have so far spent R14, 749, 521.54 on this project

## QUALITY OF HOUSING

I am sure that everyone is concerned about the quality of these houses. We do not want to hear or see poor housing quality. This results in money being wasted and people not getting value for money. I am tired, as I am certain we all are, of receiving complaints from communities across the Province about defective houses, houses that are collapsing and houses that constitute a threat to people's lives and safety. This is untenable.

We cannot allow housing subsidies to be wasted on repairs and "rectification." Houses must be built according to acceptable standards. The Department of Human Settlements has reached an agreement with the National Home Builders Registration Council. In terms of this agreement all housing projects rolled out by the department have to be enrolled with the NHBRC and all contractors have to be registered with the NHBRC. This helps to ensure quality products and to ensure that government is able to hold service providers liable for any quality related problems. I am pleased to announce that the Louisiana project is enrolled with NHBRC and you can therefore be comfortable to know that your houses will have to be inspected and passed by the NHBRC inspectors before you take occupation.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the beneficiaries who will occupy these houses.

I wish to make a special request to the beneficiaries of this project. Please take care of your houses and protect them. Never be tempted to sell them as has happened in other areas. Our department will ensure that a mechanism is put in place to monitor usage of all houses.

We need to ensure that houses are given to people who desperately need them. Those who decide to generate income through letting and selling will face the full might of the law. You cannot deny deserving, needy people a chance to benefit from government

housing projects. I urge you to look after these houses so that future generations will also benefit. I trust that you understand that a house is a capital and lifetime asset that you need to protect.

Today is indeed a momentous occasion for the 50 beneficiaries will receive the keys to their houses. I am very happy to be here to hand over your keys as this government led by President Zuma is a government of action, of delivery, of less talk and more work. We believe that we must be judged by our actions and that we must work with our people. So today let us celebrate- let us celebrate government working with our people for our people.

Working together we can do more.

Thank you.