



**Department of Human
Settlements and Public Works**

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

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The Programme Director, Cllr Nzuzi
The Mayor of Ilembe District Municipality, Cllr Mdabe
The Mayor of Mandeni Municipality, Cllr Magwaza
Amakhosi present
Councillors present
Officials from local and provincial government
All others present and all protocol observed

Too often when we gather we gather because there is a disaster or a crisis. Today however is different. Today is a joyous occasion.

In the last month we have as local and provincial government been busy. On July 18 in following Madiba's call for 67 minutes of voluntary service to our communities we visited all the wards in Ilembe District. As the District Champion of Ilembe, I was part of this initiative together with the District and Municipal Mayors and other representatives of local and provincial government.

We hosted a breakfast for senior citizens in Kwa-Dukuza and provided government services, implements, seed packs and food parcels to the community of Maphumulo.

We also, together with volunteers from the Department of Public Works, painted this school.

This new administration led by President Jacob Zuma is committed to doing things differently. The president has said that we must be a government that serves the needs of our people - we must be service-oriented - and we must ensure that we deliver the services that our people need effectively, efficiently and speedily.

The President has made it clear that we must not make empty promises. We must not just talk - we must act.

Last month we showed that we are heeding the call of our president. In December 2009 we had visited an old lady who was living in a tent with her child. This lady was living in terrible conditions and we said that we would see to it that she was properly housed..I am happy to say that when Mayors Mdabe, Khuluse and I visited the lady on July 18 this year, we were able to take her to see her newly built house that was almost ready for her to occupy.

On July 18 we also visited Mr Magwaza in Mandeni. Mr Magwaza was living alone in a dwelling that was in a very bad condition. We found that although he had been allocated a government house, the house had not been built for him. Even worse was the fact that the people living around him had moved into their houses while Mr Magwaza was left still in his old house.

This was unacceptable. So I instructed my officials of the Department of Human Settlements to investigate what had gone wrong and most importantly put things right. So when we visited Mr Magwaza we told him that the next time we would visit him would be when his house was ready. We also said that we would be visiting him soon.

Well today, less than 1 month later we are back. We are back having followed our President's instruction to be a government that serves the people and that is with the people. We are back having heeded the President's call to provide speedy, service delivery. We are back not just to talk to Mr Magwaza about his house but we are back to report to Mr Magwaza that his house has been built and it is ready and waiting for him.

We are back today to tell Mr Magwaza that he can move into his house today because today we are giving him the keys to the house.

This ANC-led government is a government of action. I can proudly tell you that people who had been affected by the heavy storms in Ndwedwe are now finally receiving their vouchers for building materials. They had been waiting for these vouchers for a very long time – too long a time in fact. However we worked with the Municipality and the handover of building materials vouchers began earlier on this year and is progressing very well.

Under the leadership of Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize we have the Flagship programme called the war on poverty. In this programme all government departments work together visiting the poorest, most deprived households in our province to bring health, welfare and other services to them. We also try to bring food security to our people through the one home one garden campaign where we provide seeds to households and encourage them to grow their own food. As the Department of Public Works we have broadened this programme to include food gardens at government buildings. As a result of this we are also able to give Mr Magwaza spinach that has been grown at one of the Department of Public Works' food gardens.

So as you can see this new administration led by President Zuma is an administration 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.