



COGHSTA

Department of Cooperative Governance

Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

NORTHERN CAPE

Housing Handover

Siyathemba 142 Housing Project

Key Address by MEC Bentley Vass

22 March 2024

Executive Mayor of the John Taolo District Municipality, Cllr. Queen Mogatle-Thoane;

Mayor of the Gamagara Local Municipality, Cllr. Johannes Roman;

Mayor of the Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, Cllr. Johannes Roman;

Head of Department, Mr. Lenkoe;

Regional Director, Mr. Cogang;

Provincial Officials;

Regional Officials;

Delegation from Kumba Iron Ore led by Ms. Lorraine Scheepers

Our honored guests today, the beneficiaries;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to greet you and thank you for your presence here today.

As government we have a constitutional mandate to ensure that all citizens have access to suitable housing. According to Section 26(1) of our Constitution, everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing . This is the reason why we are gathered here today.

Often a collaboration between the public sector and the private sector is for the purpose of delivering services and fast-tracking or executing a project for the benefit of communities. As government, more especially government in the Northern Cape and government dealing with Human Settlements we cannot over emphasize what these collaborations mean for the delivering of housing.

In the province we receive a baseline which does not allow us to cater for our communities as we would wish to. We have repeatedly been talking to the issue of the housing backlog in the province and speaking to innovative ways of bridging this backlog.

In January, the President launched the R1billion housing project that will assist with the building of 4165 houses in the entire province, this is but a drop in the ocean. It is clear that collaborations between the public and private sectors play a crucial role in addressing housing challenges and delivering services to communities. The partnership with Kumba Iron Ore is a significant step towards closing the housing backlog in the Northern Cape.

Earlier this year we visited this very same site to inspect the progress of the work being done for this project which started last year October. What we reported then was that the project is currently behind schedule, and it is anticipated that it will be complete by end of June this year.

While the project may be behind schedule, your dedication and efforts are commendable in working towards completing it within the given timeframe. Your commitment to innovative

solutions and partnerships will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the lives of many in need of housing.

Today, we are proud to hand over 10 houses to the first 10 beneficiaries of this project. Witnessing the joy and gratitude of these families receiving their keys serves as motivation to continue working towards providing more homes in the coming months. We are confident that with continued dedication and efficient work, the project will be successfully completed by the end of June without any major setbacks.

Let our collaborative efforts not be limited to just this project, but instead serve as a source of inspiration for others. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Team Kumba Iron Ore and kindly ask that you convey my gratitude to your superiors.

Often, when I hand over homes to beneficiaries, I advise to make Wills and testament immediately upon receiving their title deed, where they stipulate whom the house will go to in the event of their demise in order to avoid chaos upon their departure. We have seen how these houses create a nightmare once the beneficiary departs. This is to prevent any disputes within the family once the homeowner passes away, as well as to safeguard their dependents and prevent them from becoming homeless.

It is important to keep in mind that a well-maintained house requires regular upkeep, such as repainting every year, planting trees and other greenery. Above all, it is crucial not to sell the house with the expectation of receiving another one from the government in the future.

Programme Director, with those few words, I thank you.

