



COGHSTA

**Department of Cooperative Governance
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
NORTHERN CAPE**

**MEC BENTLEY VASS ADDRESS AT THE MEETING WITH
BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES OF THE 1 BILLION RAND
HOUSING PROJECT IN THE JOE MOROLONG
MUNICIPALITY (HEUNINGVLEI).**

Date: Saturday, 08 March 2025

**Venue : Heuningvlei Community Hall, Joe Morolong
Municipality (John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality)**

Time: 12:00

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Programme Director, HOD of the Department of COGHSTA – Mr Lenkoe
Dumela, Kgosikgolo Bareki, and your Council,
Executive Mayor of the District, Councillor Mogatle-Thoane and
Councillors Present,
Mayor of the Joe Morolong Municipality, Mme Leutlwetse-Tshabalala,
All the Colleagues of the Department who are present here,
Our Pastors and Elders of this Community,
But more importantly, all of you who are present here, the young the old
and everyone. Dumelang!.

We are here today, as the Department of COGHSTA and the team from Human Settlements, with the Mayors and Dikgosi, to come and brief you about this housing project in this community.

This project is part of the 1 Billion Rand Housing Project that was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in January 2024, in Kimberley, to address the housing challenges of our Province.

When we launched this Project in Kimberley, we made a firm commitment that this housing project is not only for Kimberley but all the five Districts of our Province will benefit.

In this District, the only Municipality that is allocated houses as part of this project, is this Municipality of Joe Morolong.

In this round, Gasegonyana and Gamagara Municipalities did not get houses, because we made an assessment and concluded that all the houses that will be built as part of this project will be in the various villages in Joe Morolong Municipality.

So you as beneficiaries and communities of Heuningvlei, we have not left you behind, because you are equally important to us as government.

Mr Cogang our Regional Director, with his team has already introduced you to the contractor last year, responsible for this Project.

Our message to all the contractors is that we do not want shoddy workmanship on this project.

Our message is clear: KgosiKgolo Bareki, we do not want unnecessary delays.

Our message is clear: our local communities must benefit from this project.

But more importantly, our beneficiaries, the communities of this area, must receive good quality houses at the end of the day.

Programme Director, we are aware of some of the challenges that were brought to our attention. Some have been resolved, and we will continue engaging on the others.

KgosiKgolo, we are also saying that when there are challenges, it is not advisable that our community members stop the project, instead, they should engage with the elected leadership, the Traditional Council, and the Department on some of the challenges.

Remember, as we delay the project, there is an elderly person waiting patiently for this government to finish his or her house and hand it over to him or her.

Let us not disadvantage those who must benefit from this project because the right to housing is a constitutional right in South Africa, enshrined in section 26 of the Constitution.

This caring government, therefore, is doing everything possible and within our limited financial resources to make the right to housing possible.

Earlier this morning, in Churchill, I handed over two houses to two beneficiaries whom we had identified for individual houses.

We know the joy of being an owner of a house and the security of tenure it provides, and we plead with those that will be receiving the houses after the completion of this project: please do not sell or rent out the houses.

Be a proud owner of this asset that we will be handing over to you as this Provincial Government, led by our Premier, Dr. Zamani Saul.

Before I came here, the leadership and the team of human settlements visited the building site in Perth and here in Heuningvlei.

We have been briefed fully about these projects in this area.

Our message when we met with the all the contractors who were appointed to build these houses across the Province was that those who do not deliver will leave us with no choice but to terminate their contracts.

We want contractors who are serious about delivering these houses within the stipulated time frames and who will deliver quality houses.

So, as this project continues, we will be monitoring it closely.

This past week, I provided a directive to my office in Kimberley that every Thursday morning, we must meet with the team so that I receive a report.

This weekly report will make sure that where there are issues, we deal with them on time and decisively.

You deserve quality houses, you do not need explanations about the delays.

You need houses, and this government is going to deliver these houses.

In conclusion, we have a team here from the Department, and you will be provided an opportunity to engage with the team to discuss any matter related to this project so that you are able to get answers.

We are confident that this team has the answers and will attend to all the queries.

This is your government, and we must listen to you because you elected us to lead. Such engagements will be ongoing for the span of this project.

We must work together to achieve our common goal of building a prosperous South Africa, our common goal of building a Modern, Growing and Successful Province, and building a thriving JTG District, and a better Joe Morolong Municipality.

Part of building a prosperous South Africa is our civic and important responsibility of taking part in our system of governance and electing leaders that will lead us at National, Provincial and Local Government spheres.

I am sure all of you know that later this month, we will be hosting a bi-election here in this ward.

You have a responsibility to exercise your right to vote, and I am urging all eligible and registered voters to go out in numbers to vote.

I am not going to tell you who you must vote for, but what is important is that you go out and vote because for our democracy to thrive and continue to grow, we must all vote whenever there are elections.

Let your voice be heard on 20 March, when we host a bi-election here in this ward.

Let us work together to build a Modern, Growing and Successful Province that we can all be proud of.

I thank you for being here and for your attention.

Ke a Leboga!