

MEC VOWS TO COMPLETE HOUSES

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NEW ROOFS: Cooperative governance and traditional affairs MEC Oly Mlamleli will take a more hands-on approach to housing.
Picture: Getrude Makhafola

The main focus of the department of human settlements during 2013 will be to consolidate and finish 9655 incomplete and outstanding houses under various housing projects.

Speaking at Viljoenskroon during the budget vote of her department of cooperative governance, traditional affairs and human settlements MEC Oly Mlamleli said the houses would provide adequate shelter to beneficiaries who had been waiting for their houses for a long time.

Outlining this and other programmes for the 2013-14 financial year, Mlamleli said in an attempt to improve business processes in the department, an online housing beneficiary management with the State Information Technology Agency would be piloted.

“A total of 20 local municipalities, including the Mangaung metro, have been provided with technical capacity and ongoing support to use the housing subsidy system online, ensuring the successful approval of each application form within the reasonable turnaround time,” she said.

Mlamleli said the department had undergone a process of strategic planning and realised a more hands-on approach was necessary.

“We have decided to intervene directly where municipalities are experiencing difficulties or where there is a failure to deliver on promises,” she said.

One such example was the Dihlabeng local municipality, where the department assisted with funding for the upgrading of bulk infrastructure.

This project will serve as a springboard and foundation to address bulk water challenges across the province.

“This is the year of the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Native Land Act, an act that altered the well-being of our people in all respects, giving rise to economic dependence which turned black people into wanderers and labourers,” she said.

“The commemoration of the 1913 Native Land Act centenary will see us handing more than 7435 title deeds over to the affected households.

On the rectification programme, Mlamleli said the department would demolish two-roomed houses during the mid-term expenditure framework.

For the 2013-2014 financial year, the focus will be on Mangaung, Phelindaba and Heidedal, Bothaville in Nala municipality, Bronville and Henneman in the Matjhabeng municipality and Schonkenville in Ngwathe municipality.

“We will also rectify the one-door houses in Bluegumbosch in Maluti-a-Phofung and other areas.”

Mlamleli said the closing of open toilets in Moqhaka municipality was a priority.

“We closed all 2087 open toilets in Viljoenskroon. We are busy with Kroonstad and Ventersburg in Matjhabeng municipality now,” she said.

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