



MINISTRY  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag x645 Pretoria Tel (012) 421 1610 Fax (012) 341 0404 Private Bag x9029 Cape Town 8000 Tel (021) 466 7600 Fax (021) 461 3695

**Annual Govan Mbeki Awards  
(Awards background)  
Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand  
Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Programme Directors: Ms Celeste Ntuli and Ms Sonia Mbele

Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

Deputy Ministers present

MEC's

Chairperson and Members of the of the Portfolio Committee

Provincial Heads of Departments

Chief Executive Officers of Housing Institutions

Finalists of the Award Categories

Honoured guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

In October 2006 at the inaugural Govan Mbeki Awards Ceremony held at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg Minister Sisulu said that public reward was given for outstanding performance. She added that society uses the reward system to propel itself to higher levels of achievement. Thus the Govan Mbeki Awards are used as a mechanism to ensure and reinforce continued good behaviour and actions by all stakeholders in the human settlements sector, especially our winners today.

At the time these awards were conceptualised, we had hoped that they will be another instrument that will assist in improving the quality of houses. A much needed development as it affected low cost housing beneficiaries who were victims of shoddy workmanship. Not only have we improved with regards to hosting the awards ceremony, it is through these awards that even our work as a sector has improved and we hope that as time goes on government will not be dealing with issues of shoddy workmanship or our people complaining about not having access to quality and descent houses.

It was therefore in line with the department's mandate to promote the achievement of a non-racial, non-sexist, integrated society through the accelerated development of Sustainable Human Settlements and the provision of decent, quality houses and social amenities that we have these awards named after one of the most beloved Sons of the African Soil. Govan Mbeki.

Growing up in rural Transkei in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Govan Mbeki understood, first-hand, the plight of the poor and disenfranchised. Like his people, he too was homeless. For to live in a country which denies you the basic rights of freedom and dignity, is to be without a true home. A home is the basis of one's identity, a place in which we find our sense of security and comfort. It is the place of our ancestors and the foundation of our communities which remember us long after we are gone. In many ways Govan Mbeki's life was dedicated to building a home for his people to ensure they were given the security and comfort which comes of having rights.

It is therefore fitting that this awards ceremony, which aims to support and recognise leaders in the human settlements industry, were named after a man who received the Isitwalandwe Medal – the highest award given by the African National Congress to individuals who are distinguished by their leadership and heroism. These awards honour those who, like the honourable Govan Mbeki, seek to build something greater than a house made of bricks and cement; they seek to build a nation borne of their blood, sweat and passion. We must also today, remember the role that the late Mama Epainette Mbeki played in making sure that these awards are a National pride.

### **What have we achieved since the Inaugural Awards Ceremony in 2006?**

We have made great strides in the Human Settlements sector by ensuring that:

- Women are provided with skills and enterprise development Opportunities to make significant impact in the male dominated Construction Industry. This is

in reference to the NHBRC led Enterprise Development Programme implemented jointly with the Gordon Institute of Business Studies (GIBS), and the One Learner One Estate Agency of the EAAB.

- Women are Awarded 30% of Housing Projects from the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG)
- Today more Women are represented in the highest decision making structures within the Sector, such as. Boards and Councils of various Human Settlements Institutions.
- More Women have ventured in the various Subsidy Programmes. We have seen an increase in Women Owned Construction Companies and some of these have won awards in various categories.
- The Youth is to playing a meaningful role in the Human Settlements value chain. However, we need to develop more programmes that would increase their participation in this Sector. However, I have observed increased Participation of Our Youth in the Social and Rental Housing subsidy Programmes. Last year we awarded a Young person in the category of

Best Youth Contractor for the development of the Community Residential Units in Marikana, North West Province.

- I am excited to learn that the CFO's Office in the Department has instituted a CFO Forum that will track amongst other issues; Allocation of Projects to Youth and Women owned Construction Companies by Provinces. I trust that the CFO Forum will also ensure timeous payment of Contractors in Provinces.
- This Year We have broadened the Youth and Women Categories in order to allow the Established and Emerging Youth and Women Contractors to Compete separately. I have also observed that not all Provinces have applied to compete in these categories. Only six Provinces have participated. For the Best Emerging Woman Contractor Category the following Provinces have submitted their candidates; Gauteng, Limpopo and Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, North West and Free State have competed. For the Best Established Women Category, only the following Provinces have participated; Gauteng, Limpopo, Easter Cape,

Mpumalanga, North West and Free State. For the best Emerging Youth contractor only the following Provinces have participated; North West, Limpopo and Free State. For the best Established Contractor only Gauteng has submitted. I therefore, urge Provinces to encourage Youth and Women Construction Companies to participate. This is one way to track, promote performance and reward outstanding quality outputs.

We must also not forget that the 2017 awards happen against the backdrop of the Centenary Celebrations of the Life and times of Oliver Reginald Kaizano Tambo. OR Tambo insisted on Quality. He insisted on the Quality of the Movement He led. He insisted on the Quality of its pronouncements and actions. In His person He matched that, with a dignified bearing, love for His Country and People. Above all He lived His entire Political Life guided by the vision of a better and secure life for all. That is the legacy this Political giant left us. To quote him “ Using the power You derive from the discovery of the truth about

racism in South Africa, You will help Us to remake Our part of the World into a corner of the globe on which all Humanity can be proud of “

Today we build houses for the security and comfort of our people's tomorrows. This is the legacy which Oom Gov, Mama Mbeki and OR Tambo left us. We must live it!

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the Participants those who have won Awards and those who did not make it.. Le mini iyeza nakuwe Qinisela!

I THANK YOU