



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 31 October 2016

EMBARGO: Immediate

Dam-se-Bos elderly receive brand new homes

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies and the Western Cape Human Settlements Minister Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, handed over houses to elderly residents in Dam-se-Bos South Project, on Friday, 28 October.

Minister Madikizela kept the promise he made during a Community Meeting held during 2015. During this meeting the community requested that he prioritise houses for the elderly. Little over a year later Madikizela lived up to his word and delivered houses to elderly recipients, which included an elderly handicapped resident. A further thirteen RDP houses are nearing completion in the Dam se Bos.

During her opening welcome at the hand-over ceremony Bouw-Spies said, "Today is a very special day for many of our Dam-se-Bos residents. Today is the day that you, our new home owners, get to call your house a home. A home that, belongs to you, and only you.

"The magnitude of this occasion is truly massive. Our Integrated Human Settlements Manager, Mawethu Penxa took note when minister Mdikizela spoke and said that he would like to see people nearer retirement age to own their own homes. And here we are today, handing over homes to the more senior members of Dam-se-Bos."

Madikizela spoke about the significance of prioritizing the elderly. "Many houses are being built in South Africa but there are still so many elderly people who don't have homes. We cannot build houses for the youth while the elderly people still live in terrible conditions. I cannot stress the importance of prioritising homes for our elderly enough."

The minister motivated the youth to start their own business. "I want to see the youth having their own Small Medium and Micro Enterprises so that they can be contracted to build these houses. We need to encourage our young people to do things for themselves and make use of all opportunities that are available to them.

"The last issue on human settlements that we as government need to deal with are people who do not qualify for an RDP house but who also cannot get a house loan from banks. This is an issue that we are currently looking into and investigating possible solutions, Madikizela concluded.

The housing development is part of the Upgrade of Informal Settlement Programme (UISP) and consists of 165 serviced sites and 165 houses. This project will spread across Dam-se-Bos, Concordia, Nekkie East and Oupad.

ENDS

Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21. Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)

Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail communications@knysna.gov.za