



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 2 June 2015
EMBARGO: Immediate

Nekkies elderly women overjoyed about their new homes

On Monday 1 June, Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans and Western Cape Minister of Integrated Human Settlements, Bonginkosi Madikizela handed over three houses to elderly beneficiaries of Nekkies East.

During her opening welcome Ms Wolmarans said, "Providing houses is an issue very close to my heart as it restores dignity to our people and improves their quality of life. The municipality together with Provincial Government are not just building houses, but rather integrated human settlements. We are committed to building quality houses that will result into better communities where people can prosper and leave in harmony".

She also urged the owners to look after their newly built homes. "I am very pleased today that we are able to hand over houses to three deserving elderly women. I plead with you to take good care of your homes and never sell them. The subsidy to build just one house is R110 000 and if you include land rehabilitation and service costs it costs up to R190 000. These are really good quality homes and if you sell them it would be a great loss to you and your future generation", she concluded.

Mr Madikizela said he is honoured to be part of the ceremony and thanked Knysna Municipality for making elderly people a priority. "It is great to see the elderly receiving homes and the youth should go out there to look for work as to be able to build their own houses. I would like to thank Knysna Municipality for their co-operation and all the work we have done thus far to improve people's quality of life. I also want to thank community members for being patient and co-operative working tirelessly throughout the process with the Manager: Integrated Human Settlements, Mr Mawethu Penxa to make sure that houses are allocated to the elderly.

The Minister also emphasized on what the Executive Mayor said, he stated that, "New home owners must ensure that they know the value of their houses and should never sell them. I am pleased that the beneficiaries will now have a place that they can call home with pride. To those who have not yet benefited I urge you to be patient we are working on delivering more homes", he concluded.

Skiti Nobandla (68), Salmans Rachel (64) and Appels Emily (77) were tearful and delighted about receiving keys to their homes. They said they have been waiting for this day for a long time but never lost hope. They also said at least now they can live a dignified life, they thanked God, Knysna Municipality and everyone involved in the process of them receiving their homes.

Nekkies forms part of the Vision project that consists of 3529 service sites, implemented over a period of 12 years dating from 2005. Areas that comprise of the Vision project are Nekkies, Dam se Bos, Corcordia, and Oupad. To date, the Municipality has delivered over 3098 serviced sites and 1937 top structures.

Manager: Integrated Human Settlements said in his closing remarks "Today was a fantastic experience to see the concrete results. The tears of joy when we hand over those keys to the elderly people, and it brings hope and happiness to people that lost hope of a better, secure, and dignified life. The keys open up a variety of avenues to a better future".

Caption:

Front row from left: Rachel Salmans, Appels Emily, Minister of Integrated Human Settlements Bonginkosi Madikizela and Nobandla Skiti

Back: Chief Liaison Officer Zamikhaya , "Doc" Zangana , Knysna Municipal Manager Grant Easton, Councillor Louise Hart, Manager Human Settlements Mawethu Penxa, Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, Councillor Migiel Lizwani and Councillor Irene Grootboom.

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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