

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MEC FOR COGTA, THE HON. R.M MTSHWENI
DURING THE HAND OVER OF TITLE DEEDS IN MATSULU, MBOMBELA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

DATE: 9 FEBRUARY 2016

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE

**THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, CLLR
MATHONSI**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

LEADERSHIP OF THE TRIPARTITE ALLIANCE

**SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF OUR DEPARTMENT AND THE LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. Programme Director, we are here today restore the dignity of our people by giving them title deeds. We are doing this on behalf of our Premier, the Honourable DD Mabuza whose wish is to see our people owning in full, the stands and the sites where their houses are built.
2. This excersize started in Dundonald, in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality wherein we handed over Title Deeds to various church organizations as well as the Mpsikazi Traditional Council and moved to Boekenhouthek A and B, where about 700 beneficiaries Benefitted.
3. Programme Director, the wounds inflicted by the former apartheid government through land dispossession is still felt. Forceful removal of our people in their own land, charecterized the former government. This was done through anti land ownership legislation, such as the Group Areas Act and the 1913 Land Act.

4. Such legislations have left scars of pain and instilled fear in the lives of our people. It gave rise to the establishment of townships such as Matsulu and Kanyamazane. The hand over of the Title Deeds seeks to give effect to the Land Tenure Rights upgrade, to give you, the people of Matsulu, full ownership of your stands and to remedy the wrongs of the past.
5. The ANC-led government has adopted a character of a caring government. Pursuant to this goal, we are handing over the Title Deeds today, as we have already done in Thembisile Hani and Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipalities.
6. The Title Deeds give you total ownership of your stands without any dispute and we appeal to the beneficiaries to keep them in a safe place. These are indeed the fruits of democracy that ANC revolutionary, Solomon 'Kalusha' Mahlangu sacrificed his life for when he was facing the brutality of the apartheid regime. He said: ***"My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom"***. These are indeed the results of the struggle waged by Oliver 'OR' Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Lillian Ngoyi, Ruth First, Portia Shabangu and many others.
7. Programme Director, we are aware of some challenges regarding the Title Deeds:
 - ***In some instances the beneficiaries are deceased and the sites are occupied by family members.***
 - ***In some, the stands are occupied by those who are not the rightful beneficiaries – it is either the stand was sold informally or the beneficiary relocated.***
 - ***In some, the properties were registered in the name of only one spouse – and now the marital status has probably changed after the verification was done.***
8. As we hand over the Title Deeds today, I would like the beneficiaries to note the following:
 - ***In the case where a beneficiary was unable to attend this hand over function today, a family member may collect on behalf of the beneficiary, but must produce an authority letter and the ID of the beneficiary with his/her ID.***
 - ***In a case of a deceased beneficiary, a representative of the deceased shall bring along the death certificate, letter of authority i.e. estate letter with his/her ID copy.***

- ***In a case of properties registered in the name of the municipality, yet the properties are occupied,*** we must all note that those properties were registered in the name of the municipality because they were vacant during the registration process of the project. Therefore all title deeds registered in the name of the municipality will be handed- over to the municipality and the current owners of these properties shall request the transfers from the municipality.
 - ***In a case where properties were sold informally*** the Title Deeds will be issued to the registered beneficiaries, and the seller (beneficiary) shall effect the transfer to the new owner at their own cost.
 - ***In a case of a family property registered with a family member, as the elders were not available during the registration period,*** the Title Deed will be issued to the beneficiary, as government has not erred during the transfer process and the family shall address the matter and effect transfers at its own cost.
9. We congratulate all beneficiaries and we hope you will use the Title Deeds for your personal development and that of your families. Once more, keep them safe.

Siyabonga.