

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, DR B.E. MZANGWA, AT THE SOD TURNING OF INTABAZWE-HARRISMITH CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

25 FEBRUARY 2009

Programme Director
Honourable Member of the Executive Council for Local Government and
Housing, Joel Mafereka
Honourable Councillors
Ward Committee members
Government officials
Managing Director of Letsatsi Property Group, Mr Teboho Molaba
Contractors
Consultants
Distinguished Guests
Members of the media
Beneficiaries
Ladies and Gentlemen

The provision and access to adequate housing is a catalyst for development and remains one of the primary requirements towards sustainable livelihoods. Adequate shelter forms the foundation of basic needs in addition to food, health, education and employment -- the primary concerns of the security of an average person in the developing world.

As we turn the sod today to mark the launch of Intabazwe-Harrismith Corridor, we take forward the service delivery plans and aims of the African National Congress led government of building cohesive and sustainable communities.

The launch also ties in well with the principles of the Freedom Charter, which clearly states that: "There shall be houses, security and comfort for all!"

Through our programmes for houses, this ANC led government aims to continue to build a better life for all.

Programme Director, it should however be noted that housing is not just about building houses. It is also about transforming our cities and towns and building cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with closer access to work, social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities.

The project that we are launching today, is a settlement model, which is based on government's housing delivery plan named Breaking New Grounds, whereby low, middle and high income earners reside within the same area.

The Breaking New Grounds plan is breaking the old apartheid system of planning, whereby settlements would be planned and allocated according to colour, race and class.

It also aims to eradicate informal settlements and create vibrant and sustainable human settlements with amenities on a strategically located land.

The plan dictates that housing must be in a sustainable environment that enhances the quality of life so that our communities enjoy secure tenure and can access basic services such as water, sanitation, healthcare, education and transportation.

Today we are happy that as the municipality of Maluti-a-Phofung we are playing part in this new dimension of change that offers diversified housing in new shapes, new sizes and choice of colours, as well as integrated development.

This is also evidence that our municipality is making major strides in accelerating service delivery and also in making sure that the basic needs of our communities are met.

With Intabazwe Corridor Mixed Use Town Development Project, we bring a shift from a one size fits all approach in housing, to promoting racial and class integration through mixed income and mixed tenure human settlements.

There is already heightened interest in this Intabazwe Corridor project as my office has been flooded with calls by individuals and business people from neighbouring provinces, such as Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and others.

Programme director, I have no doubt in my mind that this project, which is valued at R450 million rand, will boost our local economy and have far-reaching positive economic spin-offs. It will also create employment for several thousands of our people.

Intabazwe Corridor will be a well-developed human settlement that offers not only houses but also a blend of amenities such as shopping complex, office units, industrial stands, a day care centre, a clinic, a multi-purpose community centre, a cultural tourism centre and public parks.

The project which has already commenced in January this year will be implemented in four phases. The first phase will include the building of 295 low cost houses and 95 medium cost houses.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the beneficiaries of this project and thank them for being patient with us while we were finalizing all the technical aspects for it to kick-off.

Let me further make a call to our investors and business people to consider Intabazwe Corridor as their first port of call when they think of investments and setting up business entities.

I thank you all.