

**Address by the MEC for Local Government and
Housing, Mme Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, on the
occasion of the Govan Mbeki Housing Awards, 15 July
2008, Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane**

Program Director

Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Councilor Thabo
Makunyane

Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Councilor
Motalane Monakedi

Head of the Department of Local Government and Housing,
Mr. Leshabe Rampedi

Senior General Manager for Integrated and Sustainable
Human Settlements at the DLGH, Mr. Ngoako Molokomme

Officials from our Government

Representatives from NHBRC

Representatives from Thubelisha

Representatives from Servcon

Representatives from Standard Bank

Representative from National Housing Association

Members of the media

Distinguished guests

Comrades and friends

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

The South African nation as we have it today is a product of a long history of struggle. Archaeological findings in various parts of the country and the rest of Africa have located South Africa and the continent at large as the cradle of humankind and home to early forms of human civilisation.

The South African nation-state is a product of these historic developments, characterized, between 1652 and 1994, by violent conflict between the oppressors and the oppressed.

Despite their heroic resistance, the African people were defeated in a series of wars that took place over two-and-half centuries of colonial expansion.

Part of this resistance took the form of slave revolts in the Cape Colony and elsewhere. Besides the advanced productive forces at the disposal of the colonial powers, one of the central reasons for the defeat of indigenous communities was division and conflict among these communities.

Program Director

In this year, declared by the ANC as the Year of Mass Mobilization to build a Caring Society, the Govan Mbeki Housing Awards take us into that direction of building a caring society as we continue to provide shelter to our people.

The Minister for Housing, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, and Members of the Executive Councils (MECs) responsible for housing in provinces took the decision to host the Govan Mbeki Awards,

in the MINMEC (Minister and MECs) meeting held on 13 & 14 March 2006 in Benoni.

The purpose of these awards is to motivate all the stakeholders in the housing industry to harness human and other resources in accelerating housing delivery to improve the lives of millions of people, especially the poor of our country and our province. We therefore build sustainable livelihoods, communities and human settlements, providing quality housing opportunities with secure tenure and access to water, electricity adequate sanitation and other basic services.

Program Director

The first Govan Mbeki Housing Awards were held on 27 October 2006. The awards are now envisaged to be an annual event. This is the first time our Province hosts the

Provincial Govan Mbeki Housing Awards, which for us is a great honour.

The criteria of the Awards for applicants are based on the Seven Key Performance Areas as defined by the Minister of Housing.

The Awards are divided into eight categories:

1. -Non-subsidy Builder of the Year
2. -Subsidy Builder of the Year
3. -Historically Disadvantaged Builder of the Year
4. -Woman Builder of the Year
5. -Builder of the Year in Difficult Terrain
6. -Social Housing Institution of the Year
7. -Municipality of the Year
8. -MEC Merit Award

Programme Director

May I take this opportunity to congratulate those who have been selected for the afore-mentioned awards and to wish them good in their future endeavors as entrepreneurs and institutions that are responsible to create an enabling environment for the success of our country.

We have secured sponsorships from Standard Bank, Thubelisha, Servcon and other stakeholders who have sponsored prizes for the winners of this awards ceremony. We would like to extend our appreciation for your generosity in the plight to value the work of the participants and the recipients of these Awards.

We seek to honour them as role players in the housing value chain, including other developers, building contractors, banking sectors, community based organizations, the mining sector, building materials suppliers, professional associations that have committed to partner with government in building

sustainable human settlements and making the Millennium Development Goals.

Program Director

In conclusion, the 2009 Provincial and National elections are now a reality. The IEC statistics of June 2008 indicated that approximately two million voters appear on the Limpopo segment of the voters' roll. However, there are about 274 000 Limpopo Provincial Voters that are not on the Voter's roll.

We encourage these potential voters to visit the local IEC offices in the Municipalities to register as voters. Access to Government resources and services will be enhanced if we exercise our responsibilities and register as voters.

To register as a voter, a person must be a South African citizen and must produce a valid green bar-coded identity document or valid temporary identity document.

A wise person once said: "Be the there change that you want to see". So Register to Vote, help us entrench our democracy. Use your vote to make a difference for you and your country.

Program Director

This occasion calls upon us as the servants of our people to redouble and even triple our efforts in a quest to deliver services to our people. We must partner with the private sector and the communities that we serve to ensure that we deliver what communities expect us to deliver not what we think communities want.

It is with great humility to present to you the nominees for the Govan Mbeki Housing Awards.

I thank you.