

Presidential Land Handover



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Working towards restoring the dignity of rural communities 09 March 2019

President Cyril Ramaphosa together with the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Ms Maite Nkoa-na-Mashabane today (09 March 2019), presided over the Land Handover Ceremony for settled and finalised land claims for the Gauteng province at the Moretele Recreation Park, in Mamelodi, City of Tshwane.

The Minister started the programme of the day by laying a memorial wreath at the Kilnerton Memorial site, which was erected by land restitution beneficiaries, to honour the dispossessed land of their forefathers. These groups lost their rights in land when they were abruptly removed from their properties with the implementation of the provisions of the 1913 Natives Land Act.

Addressing the community, the President said that the land should be returned to the people because this land was taken from our people without any compensation.

"The settling of restitution claims is a continuation of work sought to advance the



legacy of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution by sharing the land by those who live in it. As the Freedom Charter indicates that the land shall be shared amongst those who work it," said the President.

He said even though the scars remain, the government is making a concerted effort to redress the injustices of the past.

"Land reform is ultimately about the future, it is about building a South Africa which belongs to all who live in it," said Ramaphosa. He also added that "it is also about creating new livelihoods in agriculture. It is also about ending poverty."

"As government, we are committed to restore land back to black people for agri-

culture residence, farming and other diversified economic enterprises including empowerment as part of our mandate. We are guided by the Constitution and we will implement land reform as guided by the law," said the President.

The President also urged the community members to bear with the government in the implementation of land reform; however, he committed that all land claims will be resolved because people of South Africa deserve redress for their dispossession.

We are here to heal the wounds of the past, and by handing over this redress, we are addressing the original sin that was committed by the apartheid government," concluded the President.

The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, could not hide her excitement when addressing the community saying: "the handing over marks a milestone to these communities. This dispossession was very painful but today we are here celebrating the return of the land. Working together, we know that we can do more," said the excited Minister.

During the handover celebrations, the Minister said the restoration of land will go a long way in restoring the dignity of the communities who were reduced to farm workers and labour tenants on their properties, after their ownership was seized by the apartheid government which in turn allocated it to white farmers.

"At the outset, it is important to clarify that the principal purpose for the government is to deliver land to our people. Land represents the soul and dignity of the people. Deprive people of their land, and you deprive them of their souls and their dignity. That is what the apartheid government did

to our people. The oppressive regime that made black South Africans landless produced inequality, sowed division and fertilised poverty," said the Minister

"Thus, when acquiring land to give to our people, we do so to assert the dignity of our people; we do so to promote equality; we do so to achieve unity and we do so to defeat poverty. In short, our land reform programme is designed to reverse the ugly legacy of apartheid and its economic injustices," concluded the Minister.

The Minister also handed over financial compensations to nine (9) individual families to the combined total of R203 million. Due to developments on the land previously occupied by these families, land rights restoration is not possible; hence the financial compensation.

"In the Gauteng province, of the 11498 claims lodged, 11026 were settled and 472 were still outstanding. Tshwane has the most upstanding claims.

DRDLR Media Statement



Presidential inter-ministerial committee expediting land claims



Deputy President David Mabuza says an inter-ministerial committee on land reform is currently fastracking the delivery of claimed land parcels to their rightful beneficiaries.

Mabuza said this when he responded to oral questions in the National Assembly recently.

He said the inter-ministerial committee, which was established by the President last year to address bottlenecks in the implementation of key measures to accelerate land reform, will do so within the confines of the law.

"As part of this, land claims that have been outstanding for a while are expedited and finally land parcels are being delivered to the rightful beneficiaries.

"In cases where financial settlement is an option, those are also settled accordingly. On Saturday, 9 March 2019, several communities

in Gauteng were part of the celebrations in Mamelodi where the President handed over settled and finalised land claims to 10 communities in that province," he said.

He said this after ANC MP Pumzile Mnguni asked him on the progress of the work of the inter-ministerial committee.

Mabuza said in the coming months, in a bid to expedite the resolution of land claims and land redistribution, the inter-ministerial committee will pay particular attention to strengthening the capacity of the Office of the Valuer-General to speed up the process of valuations.

"Alongside the handover of land parcels, the inter-ministerial committee has been focusing on the development and implementation of a package of post-settlement support measures to enhance productivity of restituted land as well as communal land."

Mabuza said over the last few months, the committee has dealt with the audit of land owned by government.

"Land parcels under the owners of various departments, municipalities and State-owned entities's have been identified.

"The process of physical verification of properties earmarked for redistribution is expected to be finalised soon.

"Some of this land lies on the margins of towns where the demand for land is highest. It is hoped that these land parcels will alleviate congestion and also facilitate the creation of integrated, sustainable human settlements," he said.

He said State agricultural land parcels will be redistributed to support broadened participation of new entrants into the agricultural sector, and expand agro-based incubation programmes.

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Government restores land to Ubizo community



The handover of land back to its rightful owners is the first step in correcting the wrongs of the past, says Deputy President David Mabuza.

"We believe that we finally have the opportunity to right the wrongs of the past by ensuring the restoration of land to its rightful owners," the Deputy President said when he officiated at the Presidential handover ceremony for settled and finalised land claims to the Ubizo community in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal.

The Deputy President said the handover of the land allows the community to reclaim their dignity as well as add to their socio-economic

development efforts.

At the ceremony held at the Bhelikusasa High School Sports Ground, the Deputy President said the Ubizo land settlement is among the first settled and finalised land claims that government has unlocked to hand over to its rightful beneficiaries.

The claim was first lodged in 1995. iNkosi Cebekhulu sought justice and dignity for his people by demanding the return of his people's land, which had been taken from them as far back as 1927.

"We are here to make right those wrongs and to say to our people, here is your land and no more shall you be a slave in the land of your birth.

We say this land of your forefathers, is now restored to you and your future generations," he said.

The land claim is in two parts, with the first phase consisting of the acquisition of land for the Ubizo community, which is a total of 2547.2 hectares amounting to R136.4 million. The second phase of the claim is to the value of R1.7 million will soon be finalised and restored to the community.

The Deputy President, who is also the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform, said land is an important commodity.

"It is on land that we are able to engage in agricultural >



production; build human settlements and drive manufacturing and industrial development in order to create jobs," he said.

He urged the community to use the land wisely for the collective benefit of all.

"You must till this land and produce. From this land must come opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship," he said.

The Deputy President urged the community to use the land for development of the nation as a whole including the emancipation of women and other forms of discrimination.

"We must imagine a new generation of women who never allow men to buy their surrender with money or any other social instrument of power because they own their own land and productive capacity. We must also use this land to empower young people.

"They must see from this land new opportunities that will potentially change their lives. They must see this as a genuine avenue for development."

Land reform and the transformation of the economy are key aspects for government,

said the Deputy President.

Last weekend President Cyril Ramaphosa led the handover of settled and finalised 142 hectares of prime land claims to the community of Moretele in the North West.

In its statement Cabinet said it was pleased with the continued roll-out of land reform programmes.

This as in recent weeks government has been seeking to correct the wrongs of the past and build a more equitable society that will benefit all South Africans by settling finalised land claims.

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Restoring dignity, one land claim at a time



President Cyril Ramaphosa says the handover of title deeds for 3 990 hectares of land is “historic” and restores the dignity of local communities in the West Coast.

The President said this when he officiated the handover of the title deeds for the settled portions of land claims to more than 50 households of Ebenhaeser, Beeswater in the Western Cape on Saturday.

“The handing over of these title deeds is a historic occasion, because it includes the first ever settled land claim in the Western Cape to descendants of the Griqua people.

“It is in the ownership of land that we find our indepen-

dence as a people. It is land that we rely on to live, to work and to eat. It is land that holds firmly the roots of our ancestors. Land is the one thing that endures the passage of time,” he said.

The President said the number of claims settled for the West Coast Municipality – a total of 392 out of 422 by February this year – is a result of cooperation between the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Office of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner.

The handover of the title deeds marks an end to a 16 year journey after the Ebenhaeser community first submitted their land claim.

This was done through the 2005 Ebenhaeser Settlement Framework Agreement, which stipulated that there should be a Community Development and Acquisition plan (CDLAP) to guide the resolution of the Ebenhaeser land claim.

The Community Development and Acquisition plan was then developed in conjunction with an extended Land Claims Committee and adopted by a commission managed Community Meeting on 31 October 2013.

This plan then formed the basis of the Ebenhaeser Community's position in the negotiations towards the settlement of the claim.

After this, 13 June 2015 became a historic day for Ebenhaeser and the Community Property Association as the Minister of Rural Development, Gugile Nkwinti, signed a Settlement Agreement with the Ebenhaeser Community Property Association.

Addressing members of the



community and beneficiaries, the President said it remained government's priority to provide the necessary support to communities who have had their land returned to them in order for it to be utilised productively and effectively, and to support the broader goals of agricultural growth and economic transformation.

"I am therefore particularly pleased that the Ebenhaeser community wants to use the land for productive purposes.

"There are already various

agricultural activities, including livestock farming, taking place on some of the farms, and three harvests have been completed so far.

"I am pleased to note that the emerging farmers in the community are being supported through the Ebenhaeser Farmer Production Support Unit and have established a co-operative model to build capacity in livestock, vineyards, lucerne and hay production as well as fresh pro-

duce," he said.

The President said the restituted farms have also acquired a quota for the delivery of wine grapes to local sellers and the community trust is engaging with Pioneer Foods around the production of raisins, currants and sultanas.

He said a number of infrastructure projects have also been implemented on the restituted land.

"The farms have combined water rights for 132 ha from the Olifantsrivier Irrigation Scheme, which will greatly help the community in its future agricultural activities.

"In the future the community is looking at exploring opportunities in the rapidly growing aquaculture sector, which has significant potential benefits in terms of job creation.

"The other communities are also exploring opportunities in livestock and game farming, as well as possible opportunities in salt and gypsum mining. It is critical that we highlight the post-settlement futures of these claims. Land reform isn't just an imperative for social justice. It is also part of our greater drive to grow our economy and create jobs for our people," the President said. SAnews.gov.za



Land handed over to N Cape communities



Deputy President David Mabuza says government is working hard to restore the dignity of all South Africans through the Land Reform Programme.

"As government, we want to restore human dignity. We must be at the forefront of transformation," the Deputy President said at a land handover ceremony in Seeding, Northern Cape.

The GaMopedi and Seeding handover forms part of government's restitution and land reform programme,

in line with the Constitution. The beneficiaries include the Dukathole community, which consists of residents who moved to Germiston between 1920 and 1927 to look for job opportunities in the mining sector.

Both the GaMopedi and Seeding communities have received about 9 000 hectares of land, which will be utilised for agricultural production.

At the handover ceremony, Northern Cape Premier Siya Lucas said government is

committed to ensuring that people get back their land.

"We want to restore the dignity of our people by restoring the land back to them. Now that you have your land back, you will be able to contribute to food production," the Premier said.

Community leader Atho Niemand told SAnews that it has been a long journey to this day.

"Some of the people with whom we started this journey are no longer alive. It would



have been nice if they were here to witness this day, but we thank our government for finalising the process.

"We are going to use the land productively," Niemand said.

The handover comes at a time when the National Assembly is still dealing with a proposed amendment to the Constitution on expropriation without compensation.

The Draft Expropriation Bill was published on 21 December 2018 for public comment.

The restitution programme has provided redress to a large number of victims of land dispossession who lodged claims with the government.

Government is prioritising claims that were lodged no later than 31 December 1998 and are yet to be finalised.

Approximately 80 000 land claims were received before 31 December 1998, of which 78 750 have been settled.

The remaining backlog is primarily the result of competing claims that have been

lodged or untraceable claimants.

Government has programmes to empower claimants to use land productively for job creation, food security and attracting young people to farming. Other support is provided through various state programmes such as Letsema, the Recapitalisation and Development Programme, and through funding agency Mafisa.

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