



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **From a poor farm worker to property owner**

17 December 2015

Sebe Mkhasebi and her husband Sthembiso Mkhasebi are one of the couples that benefitted from the relocation project to make way for the Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme – Phase 2. The couple was very excited to receive keys to their new house from the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane on Tuesday, the 15 December 2015 in Bruntville Township, Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal.

“We were living and working on farms, sleeping in muddy houses, without potable drinking water and dignified sanitation. Today we have a beautiful house, own the land on which our house is built and have running water, proper sanitation and electricity, thanks to the Department of Water and Sanitation and its implementing agency TCTA”, said the happy couple.

Minister Mokonyane was accompanied by KwaZulu-Natal Premier Hon. Senzo Mchunu, MPL, for the official handover of the 36 houses to the families that were requested to move from the Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme – Phase 2 project area. The houses have three bedrooms, a kitchen with dining room (open plan), as well as a bathroom and shower, with solar powered geysers. In addition to the handover of the houses to the relocated families, Minister Mokonyane and Premier Mchunu gave groceries to 2000 families as Christmas gifts and wished them very happy holidays and a pleasant festive season.

“This is to demonstrate our commitment that was made by the government on the development of the dam which was officially opened by President Jacob Zuma in the year 2013, that those who were relocated would be assisted in terms of relocation and provision of decent accommodation”, said Minister Mokonyane as she handed over the new houses to the families.

The Mooi-Mgeni System was under severe stress, due to over-abstraction. The project with a budget of R2,1 billion, comprises of the construction of a 37.7-m-high dam on the Mooi River next to Rosetta, with a storage capacity of 139.5 Mm<sup>3</sup> and augmentation of the existing water transfer system through the construction of a pump station and pipeline. The project will increase the current yield of the Mooi-Mgeni System by 60 Mm<sup>3</sup>/a to 394 Mm<sup>3</sup>/a.

The project increases the available water resources in Umgeni Water’s area of supply, which comprises the six municipalities of eThekweni Metropolitan, uMgungundlovu District Municipality and the local municipalities of Msunduzi, Ugu, and Ilembe. Umgeni Water operates its area of supply on a system basis, in a manner that ensures that all consumers are treated equally and not penalised by previous lack of access to major bulk infrastructure, a consequence of past Apartheid policies.

**Velly Maribe**