

A place to call home

Ntshengedzeni Talelani of Ngwenani ya Themeli village outside Thohoyandou has been living in a mud house for quite some time. Life has not been easy for Talelani (68) who has to use the social grant he receives from the government to look after his two wives and seven children.

Another resident who finds himself in a same situation is Johannes Mudau. The 86 year old has been living in a dilapidated structure. Mudau's wife passed away a long time ago and he has been staying alone since his two daughters got married.

The two residents could not believe it when the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Soviet Lekganyane handed them keys to their new and fully furnished three bedroom houses during a special ceremony held at Ngwenani ya Themeli on the 1st of November 2011. The handing over of these two houses is part of the Celebrity Build a House Campaign. The campaign stems out from a partnership between CoGHSTA and SABC's Limpopo region and aims to change the lives of underprivileged villagers in the province. The initiative is part of the national wide "Media Build" project, which also seeks to alleviate poverty and strengthen the public, private partnership where members of the media fraternity together with officials of the national and provincial departments of Human Settlements build houses for selected beneficiaries.



MEC Soviet Lekganyane , Mr Ntshengedzeni Talelani with his wife and daughter accompanied community leaders look on as Thulamela Municipality Mayor, Grace Mahosi cut the ribbon

Talelani who is wheelchair bound was at a loss for words. "I really do not know what to say, this is truly a dream come true. Now I finally have a place I can call home," he said. Talelani also thanked the Department, SABC and Rirothe Construction for ensuring that both families have a proper accommodation. Speaking during the handing over, Lekganyane advised that traditional leaders and the members of the community should lend a hand to help those who are underprivileged in their nearby communities. "We as government, we will continue to provide necessary facilities to the people of Limpopo and we will do that for years to come. We urge the community members and the authorities to help us fight poverty by helping those in need", he said.