



# STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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## Media release

### **Community members who registered for RDP houses prior to 2001 urged to come forward**

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is inviting members of the community who registered for RDP houses prior to 2001, to come forward to enquire about their status at the Human Settlements Department, in order to be put on the waiting list for the 2015 housing allocation from Province.

It has come to the attention of STLM that there could be some people who made application prior to 2001 who are still waiting for RDP houses.

Some of the challenges STLM is experiencing is that there are people who registered prior to 2001 who have changed their residential addresses and cell phone numbers and despite investigation the municipality has been unable to trace them. STLM keeps the names of applicants on the system until such time as they are traced.

Other challenges that STLM faces is that there were people who made application prior to 2001 who may now be deceased. Family members are disqualified if the person who registered was not married or had no children at the time of applying and did not register them as dependants.

Another challenge is that STLM has been trying to contact people who have applied for RDP houses, but have been disqualified. The main reasons for disqualification is that the person applying is not a South African citizen, or does not have the correct paperwork, the person applying is not a first time home owner or they earn (combined with other family members) over R3,500 per month.

People with disabilities and pensioners will be prioritised on the waiting list. As part of the integrated housing development plan, pensioners and people with disabilities will be assimilated into the community where they can also play an important role in society.

STLM is only responsible for the allocation of people for the waiting list of RDP houses, the development of such houses is the responsibility of the

Provincial Department of Human Settlements whose task it is, is to allocate housing fairly between its 23 municipalities.

It should also be noted that council decides when to add people to the waiting list and ward councillors are responsible for dealing with registrations in the communities they serve. The applications are then handed to officials to record on the system.

Ward councillors are also responsible for consumer education in their wards by explaining to first time homeowners how to care for their houses, such as home maintenance, painting and planting trees and shrubs on their properties, as this is the responsibility of the home owner and not the municipality. Home owners are also educated on how to look after their title deeds and their rights as home owners, as RDP houses are covered by an eight-year lease, which means that the home owner cannot rent it out or sell the property before that time.

STLM continues to strive for good quality workmanship and construction of RDP houses and before houses are handed over inspectors and home owners do a final inspection to ensure that everything is in order. Any problems with the house or property are put on a snag list, which the building contractor must rectify within a three-month period.

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Yours sincerely

**ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER**