

“Green” building technologies showcased with the launch of the Legacy Project on Mandela Day

Johannesburg, 15 July 2011 – The National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) will showcase the use of “green” building technologies to create sustainable human settlements solutions for the less privileged with the launch of the Legacy Project on 18 July in Cape Town.

The Legacy Project - which forms part of the 12th International Housing and Home Warranty Conference due to take place on African soil for the first time in September this year - will be launched in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements and the City of Cape Town.

“The Legacy Project is a new housing concept, which moves beyond the 45 sqm house to a more pleasing, functional, eco-friendly and sustainable high-density model located close to economic and social amenities,” says Rev Dr Vukile Mehana, Chairperson of the NHBRC Council.

Four erfs, allocated by the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements in Conifers Blue Down, in Cape Town, will be used to build eight, double-storey 60m² homes largely from alternative building technologies.

“In South Africa there is a requirement for innovation in the subsidy housing market so that those in need can be assisted faster and more effectively. Currently there are a number of sustainable, innovative building technologies available in the country that aim to provide fast turnaround and cost-effective, energy-efficient solutions that will assist in denting the housing backlog,” he says.

To this end, these modern homes will include environmentally sustainable elements such as a Northern orientation, thermal properties, passive energy solutions, solar water heaters, water tanks, greening and vegetable gardens.

Beneficiaries were selected from the Province and City demand database (waiting lists). They consist of the elderly; women- and orphan-headed households; the disabled and families living under the poverty line.

Building will commence on 18 July, Mandela Day, and in the spirit of the day, stakeholders attending the official launch will be divided into work teams to kick start the construction of the homes and assist with beautification of two adjacent parks.

The homes will be officially handed over to the beneficiaries on 26 September this year during the conference.

“We hope that this unique contribution from South Africa will be adopted by future conferences across the world,” says Rev Dr Mehana.

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