



JOINT EFFORT RESCUES POVERTY-STRICKEN FAMILY FROM UNDIGNIFIED CONDITIONS

Media Alert

For immediate release

07 August 2018

IN a fine display of effective intergovernmental relations between the Province, the Municipality and a water entity, an indigent family headed by a 90-year grandmother in northern KwaZulu-Natal has had its dignity restored.

The ten member Makhathini family, including a severely disabled adult and children, had been sharing a poorly ventilated, sparsely furnished single room mud dwelling in Port Dunford, near Esikhawini.

It was a living arrangement that not only stripped the family of its dignity and privacy but also left them susceptible to communicable diseases.

After the family's plight reached the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Sihle Zikalala recently, and noting the direness of the situation, he immediately sprung into action and appealed to the Mayor of the uMhlathuze Municipality, Mr. Mduduzi Mhlongo and the Chief Executive of Mhlathuze Water, Mr. Mthokozisi Duze to come to the family's aid.

The partnership has culminated in the provision of a temporary housing structure that will be delivered to the family tomorrow. They will also be given groceries and blankets. A benefactor has also made a firm commitment to start building the family a new home. Members of the media are invited to witness the official handover of the interim housing structure to be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 8 August 2018

Time: 8am

Venue: Port Dunford, near Esikhawini

Enquiries: **Bongani Tembe** – Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs 082 327 2600

Mdu Ncalane: City of uMhlathuze on 076 2926 535

Siyabonga Maphumulo: Mhlathuze Water on 082 303 4243