

Generosity is the strongest shelter!



Independent Development Corporation's employees work on one of the houses in Orange Farms.

By Sonqoba Kunene

ORANGE FARMS.- Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with several corporate entities including the Independent Development Corporation, Arcelor Mittal and Auto & General, handed over houses built by caring staffers from a host of companies and residents to lucky recipients on Friday. Habitat for Humanity advocates for affordable housing and strives to create opportunities for all people to live in decent durable shelter.

Employees from different companies rolled up their sleeves and spent a week working around the clock to finish the houses. On Friday morning, Gauteng MEC for Housing and Local Government, Humphrey Mmemezi addressed companies and employees involved.

In his brief speech, Mmemezi cautioned against South Africa becoming a welfare state where people will expect free RDP housing from the government. "I would like to congratulate the Habitat for Humanity and all the companies

and employees involved in this project.

"Your names and those of your companies should be recorded as people who did something good for our people by building these 34 houses," says Mmemezi.

One of the companies involved in the project, the IDC says that housing is a big challenge for many South Africans in the lower income class.

Xabiso Matshikiza, Public Relations Account Manager at Chillibush PR, the company that speaks on behalf of the IDC, says that despite various government and private sector led initiatives to address this challenge, such is the magnitude of the backlog that needy communities still do not have access to decent housing. "The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) in partnership with Habitat for Humanity South built six new houses that were handed over to deserving families from Orange farm. About 300 IDC employees participated in the initiative as part of the employee voluntary work," she says.