

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT – LAUNCH OF THE STUDENT VILLAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
FORT HARE (UFH)  
03 OCTOBER 2019, ALICE**

**By Chuene Ramphele, Group Executive Infrastructure Delivery, DBSA**

Programme Director

Allow me to extend my salutations and acknowledgements to the following:

- The Director General of the Department of Higher Education & Training
- Vice Chancellor of the University of Fort Hare & Management
- Student leadership and community
- Mayor of Raymond Mhlaba Municipality
- The DBSA CEO Mr Patrick Dlamini (In absentia)
- The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) team
- The EU and IIPSA team

Today we pride ourselves, inspired by the power of collective we harnessed throughout the journey that we both mapped from 2015 as the right way to accelerate provision of student accommodation. Our gratitude is extended to the Department of Higher Education to have provided leadership and trust for us as the DBSA, IIPSA and National Treasury to contribute towards decent housing for students through the Student Housing Infrastructure Programme (SHIP).

Having the first delivery of student housing units in the University of Fort Hare resonates with the historic character of this prominent institution recognised with its rich history and has produced high profile statesmen and leaders for Africa. Indeed, your University inspire us with its motto “*in lumine tuo videbimus lumen*” translated as “*in your light we shall see the light*”.

The launch of the student village here, today, bear testimony to this motto in that we are seeing the light. The DBSA therefore vows to keep this light brighter so we can realise progressive

delivery of the targeted number of student accommodation units for the Fort Hare University and other Universities in South Africa.

We assure DHET that Government's target of delivering 300,000 student beds in the next 10 years is possible and we will ensure that you receive our undivided support. The SHIP initiative is bearing fruits and we make a call to the leadership of DHET, NT, Universities & TVET colleges to continue creating a sustainable and conducive environment for collaboration.

We encourage for the creation of job opportunities for local communities and empowerment of businesses in the construction phases of all student housing projects. Further we urge the University to ensure maintenance of these assets throughout the life cycle.

To the student Community, we salute you and know that your role in the delivery of these infrastructure is critical as the users of the asset. Please preserve these building and treat them with care for use by future student generation. We encourage the student leadership to always discourage the temptation to vandalise the university assets as a way of expressing our grievance. There is no any other mechanism to resolve grievances than engaging in constructive dialogue with the university authorities.

In conclusion, let me remind all, that the DBSA is an organ of state and it will continue to be driven by the quest to bend the arch of history towards shared prosperity. We confirm our obligation to augment the capacity of the state to deliver on infrastructure, being Education (student accommodation), Water, Transport, ICT, Energy, Health, Human Settlements etc.

Thank you once again to the University of Fort Hare leadership including Student leadership, DHET, NT, IIPSA for, today, we both see the results of the structured programme of building decent accommodation for the Fort Hare student community.

**I thank you**