

MORE HOUSES

more skills

more jobs

By Ndivhuwo Khangale

A total of 200 000 low-cost houses are provided by the Department of Housing each year.

Through the provinces and municipalities, the Department of Housing is by far the largest constructor of houses in the country.

According to the publication *Housing and the Economy of South Africa*, private companies constructed 40 000 houses in 2005, while the government built 200 000.

These 200 000 houses are valued at an estimated R4,5 billion per year. In addition to providing low-cost housing, the construction has also created 15 000 direct jobs. A further 14 000 jobs have been created through the manufacturing of building materials.

■ Empowering women

To empower women, government has distributed 10% of all provincial housing budgets to

projects led by women constructors.

Since 2000, 290 out of 2573 projects were allocated to women.

■ Training

To involve the youth in housing programmes, there is a youth internship programme targeting students heading for construction-

related qualifications, offering bursaries to seven of them for 2006.

In 2007, 20 students at universities of technology (formerly technikons) and universities will receive such bursaries.

To make a stronger home-building industry, a skills-training programme for contractors has been introduced by the National Home Builder's Registration Council. This is a body established to protect house-owners from unfair homebuilders.



This programme includes a course by the Construction, Education and Training Authority (CETA) in financial, project and construction management.

An amount of R10 million has been budgeted to train 2 700 emerging constructors in housing. To date, more than 250 housing constructors have been trained.

The budget will be increased to R20 million in 2006 and training centres will be established countrywide.