

The tribe has spoken

The Deputy Minister of Housing, Zou Kota-Fredericks announced the winners of the Absa International Innovative Housing and Sustainable Energy competition in Wellington. The event showcasing new technologies, design and energy efficient products, was a partnership with government and stakeholders in the housing sector. The Drakenstein Municipality allocated 33 sites for low cost, subsidy and Gap market housing. The winners were determined by a community social acceptability poll.



Announcing the winners at Montecasino, the Deputy Minister of Housing commended the giant banking institution for its good work in encouraging developers and estate agents and also for being committed to partnering government to produce quality affordable housing.

She says that housing is not the government's responsibility alone. "We need everyone to come on board, public and private partnerships. With the economics of scale, we don't want to be chasing numbers, we want to replicate successful initiatives in all corners of this country."

The NHBRC and Agrément assisted with housing quality control and technology certification.

Partnering Absa in the initiative, National Housing Finance Corporation's CEO Samson Moraba says that the competition is about

housing solutions and options that new technologies offer and the difference it can make to the lives of the community. The NHFC collaborated to deliver good quality homes that are energy efficient. The houses can be built within weeks, or even days using energy efficient systems, recyclable materials and renewable energy. Moraba ended his address with a quote: "don't let us drive people into a place, let us help the poor to have a place where they want to be," echoing the ethos of the competition in allowing the community to determine the type of home, design and energy efficient systems that suited them best.

Gavin Opperman, CEO Absa Retail Bank, says the purpose of the competition is to explore new technologies and building materials and energy efficient solutions. The demand for housing and the crisis is not secret, the competition attracted 18 participants from several

countries around the world. The methods were tested and if we could think more innovatively we would solve the demand and need a lot sooner, says Opperman. "We can make a difference in housing if we can give people a place to live with dignity and this will make a difference in creating wealth."

NHBRC, CEO, Siphon Mashinini says "Our role was about quality control and ensuring those innovations from abroad met South African standards." He added that new NHBRC inspectors will undergo training in the nine provinces. We have also engaged in training programmes for energy contractors and youth in construction.

To ensure quality housing is delivered, the NHBRC intends de-registering builders, engineers and architects who provide substandard and inferior housing. "It is high time shoddy workmanship is stopped right now!"

In the **Low-Cost Housing Subsidy category**, APC took first place and won R250 000. Innoblock in second place won R100 000 and in third place Namibian-based Kavango won R75 000.

In the Affordable Housing category: Imison won R250 000 in first place, second was Izoblok from the Czech Republic collecting R100 000 and in third place Kavango, winning R75 000.

Energy Efficiency in Low Cost Subsidy Housing: in first place was Kavango who pocketed a cheque for R40 000. **Second place went to APC who won R25 000** and in third place, Imison, winning R15 000.

Energy Efficiency in Affordable Housing: R40 000 was won by Great Force in first place, in second place was Keith Rudd, winning R25 000. Third place went to Imison who received R15 000.



Cementing relationships



Chi Jianxin, CEO CADFund

Limpopo Province is to benefit from a deal between China and South Africa for a new R1,65 billion cement manufacturing plant. The joint venture between Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (Wiphold) Continental Cement (Conticem), China's leading cement group, Jidong Development Group and the China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund) will create jobs in one of the poorest provinces in the country.

While South Africa's total production was 14 million tons. Jidong's goal for 2010 is to produce 80 million tons.

The new plant, which will be located 85km north of Brits and adjacent to Conticem's limestone deposit, will be designed to initially produce 2 500 tons of pure ordinary Portland cement, per day.

The plant is situated close to the Raputi community and will provide work for some 600

people during construction and 170 people during operation. Conticem's CEO, Anton Weavind, says "Conticem has substantial limestone deposit in the area. We have almost 81 million tons of proven reserves of cement grade limestone and a further 120 millions tons of resources."

"All the necessary environmental and social impact studies have been successfully concluded for this project."



Louisa Mojela, Anton Weavind and Gloria Serobe

Louisa Mojela, Wiphold's CEO, says this venture follows an exclusive agreement between Wiphold and Jidong in 2007, to import and distribute Jidong/Wiphold branded cement into Southern Africa.

CADFund and Jidong share 51% equity, with R800 million direct foreign investment, Wiphold 23,9% and Conticem 25,1% equity. Nedbank Capital has been appointed as lead arranger for the transaction.