

**Evaluating the Ownership Spirit Displayed by the Golf Course
Reconstruction and Development (RDP) Housing Programme
Beneficiaries with Evidence Emanating from the
2011-2013 Research Case Study**

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ABSTRACT This study sought to evaluate the spirit of the Reconstruction and Development (RDP) housing programme ownership by the dwellers with a case study of Golf Course RDP houses, Eastern Cape Province. The study adopted mixed methods of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect data; with the qualitative approach assuming a dominant approach while the quantitative approach was less dominant. The quantitative approach took the form of a mini survey while the qualitative approach took the form of a case study. The findings from this study revealed increasingly lowered ownership spirit through: some beneficiaries selling or renting the RDP houses; some abandoning them giving thieves an opportunity to vandalize them; while some beneficiaries were not occupying the houses at all as they had other alternative shelter; and lack of sanitary and hygiene environment with lack of clean water being acute; and the beneficiaries not showing interest to improve them. However, close to half of the beneficiaries showed a significant appreciation of the houses and had some sizeable ownership spirit. The researchers recommended that: the current RDP housing programme be re-organized afresh towards ensuring that the RDP houses have access to safe and clean water and sanitary and social amenities are availed; an investigation be carried out on the status of the occupants in those RDP houses whether they are beneficiaries or not. These measures can go a long way in ensuring that the spirit of the RDP housing dwellers is stirred towards owning the programme.