

The Extent to Which Government Housing Programs Meet the Expectations of Intended Beneficiaries in South Africa

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ABSTRACT Although numerous housing projects for the needy have been established in South Africa since 1994, many reports show their inadequacy in meeting the expectations of the intended beneficiaries. It is based on this notion that this paper was crafted to explore the extent to which housing programs meet the expectations of intended beneficiaries. The study collected data from 276 samples or participants who were subjected to either interviews or questionnaires. The findings show that the beneficiaries were not happy with the quality, size and spacing of the houses; the intended beneficiaries felt that the distance of the houses to other socio-economic locations such as schools, hospitals and police were very far; the government and contractors' slow pace of construction of the houses was disturbing and very slow. The researchers recommend an overhaul in the implementation of the housing program to ensure that the expectations of the intended beneficiaries are met. A thorough monitoring and evaluation is needed to promote and strengthen accountability at all levels. (This paper is derived from a broader research study that sought to investigate the implementation of housing programs towards addressing housing problems in the Amathole district of the Eastern Cape Province with the objective of this study being to investigate and establish the extent to which the housing projects meet the expectations of the targeted beneficiaries in South Africa.)