

## WORK TO FIX DAMAGED HOUSES UNDERWAY



Memories of the fateful Saturday night of 11 October 2014 are still vivid in the mind of Rahabah Mponya of Mahlatswetsa, Excelsior, of how the windstorms hit this small town of the Mantsopa Local Municipality and left several houses without rooftops.

Mponya's house also did not survive the raging storms, which began to wreak havoc as early as seven in the evening. Her rooftop was blown off.

"I was busy preparing supper for my two grandchildren when the strong wind, accompanied by heavy rains, began to blow. All of a sudden the roof of the house was shaking. I began to sing the Sesotho hymn *Utlwang sefefa sa moya* (Listen to sound of the blowing wind) and began to pray to God.

"I then heard a loud bang and within no time the roof of my house was gone. All I could see was the clouds. I have never seen a thing such as this since I have been a resident of this area for many years," she said.

The 75-year-old granny was relating the events of the fateful night with a relieved heart to the Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Councillor Malefu Vilakazi, Members of the Mayoral Committee and the media in the afternoon of Wednesday, 10 December 2014, during an inspection tour of the progress made in fixing of the damaged houses.

Mponya thanked Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality for ensuring that her house and those of other affected homeowners are repaired following the devastating storms.

The visit to Mahlatswetsa by the Mayoral Committee was the second following the one in Bohlokong a week earlier to also inspect progress made in the repairing of the damaged houses. The area of Bohlokong in Dihlabeng Local Municipality and Qwaqwa in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality were also affected by the storms on the very night of 11 October 2014.

The Executive Mayor and the Mayoral Committee have been impressed by the progress made in the repairing of the houses.

“It is Christmas time now and we want to see all these affected families having their houses fixed with much necessary speed so that they can enjoy the Christmas day in their completed houses,” she said.

Vilakazi said that she was satisfied that almost 85 percent of work has already been done.