

CASE STUDY

Polo Sannah Tshabalala, Erf 7766, Ngwathe, Free State

Title deed received 27 July 2016 via the Free Market Foundation's **Khaya Lam (My Home) Land Reform Project**

When an Ngwathe ward councillor brought to the FMF's Khaya Lam liaison, Jeanette Mpondo, an application from Mrs Polo Sannah Tshabalala who was born on 7 July 1915, our project manager's wife, Veronica Feldman, immediately resolved the issue of who would sponsor this transfer.

Veronica and Perry's daughter and son-in-law – Batya and Gavin Cohen – sponsored the title as a gift to their eldest daughter Zoe, who was turning 21 on July 7 – the same day that Mrs Tshabalala turned 101. An age difference of 80 years!



Mrs Tshabalala (101 years old) outside the home she now owns

INTERVIEW with Perry Feldman, Khaya Lam project manager:

Perry: How old are you?

Mrs Tshabalala: I will be 101 years old on 7 July.

P: Were you married?

Mrs T: Yes, but my husband died in '47 when I was 32.

P: Where did you live?

Mrs T: We lived in Tumahole but somewhere else.

P: Did you have a house?

Mrs T: We had a mud and iron house

P: When did you move here?

Mrs T: The municipality gave me this stand in 1955. I built a shack here.

P: When did you build this house?

Mrs T: My daughter, Selina, built this house with her pension money in 1999.

P: How many children do you have?

Mrs T: I had 7 children of whom 4 are still alive.

P: Grandchildren and great-grandchildren?

Mrs T: 25 grandchildren and about 50 great-grandchildren. (not really certain)

Note from Perry Feldman – Project Manager

Mrs T was sitting in a chair with the sun behind her. I asked her if she would move so that I could take a picture. She got up and moved to another chair about 10 paces away. Having sat down she suddenly remembered that she had left her stick at the other chair. She asked a grandchild to please pass it to her. She walks to the clinic which is around the corner. She is vague about dates and doesn't remember detail. Once her title was registered, it was personally handed to her by her sponsor in her home.

The FMF's objective is to have all council-owned properties in Ngwathe and elsewhere in South Africa (5 to 7 million) upgraded to full freehold title at no cost to the lawful residents. Having considerably simplified the process of converting ownership from council to legal resident, **FMF has managed to reduce the cost per transfer to R2,600.** Please note: Donations are tax-deductible. On receipt of payment, you will be issued with a Section 18A certificate for SARS. Contact: perryfeldman@fmfsa.org