

## **HOUSING MINISTER WINS HEARTS IN DURBAN**

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Housing Minister Sankie Mthembi-Mahanyele's diplomacy and deep "understanding of issues" relating to the plight of the homeless won the hearts of the militant Organisation of Civic Rights on Friday.

Mahanyele met the OCR at the Diakonia offices in Durban on Friday as part of a fact-finding mission in KwaZulu-Natal.

An OCR spokesman, Iqbal Sayed Mohamed, said the meeting had been the "most fruitful" his organisation had attended with government officials.

"The minister has her finger on the pulse. She knows exactly where her department is going, and I will withdraw my comments about the inefficiency of government just because of her."

He said his organisation had told the minister there was a need for a clear policy on rent control and tenancy in the province.

He said his organisation also expressed its unhappiness at the lack of vision and the implementation of a clear policy on housing.

The OCR represents at least 8 000 homeless people in Durban. Said Mohamed: "Council operates on an ad hoc basis, and there exists a need for a clear cut policy on rent and housing".