

The Independent *on Saturday*, September 07, 2002

Singing minister's praises

Sayed Iqbal Mohamed

M MITCHELL'S criticism of the Minister of Housing Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele was hostile (August 17, 2002). She is not arrogant, embarrassingly stupid and without a modicum of common sense, as Mitchell wants us to believe.

Having met with the minister on various occasions, I can say that her response to people's needs are commendable.

Below a glimpse of the achievements to the minister's credit:

1. Established the foundation for facilitating a sustainable housing development process by defining the roles and responsibilities of all spheres of government, private sector (banks included) and citizens.
2. Introduced a new housing subsidy policy, a single housing legislation and consumer protection measures.
3. Replaced a plethora of property laws.
4. Increased the rate of housing delivery.
5. Widened tenure options.
6. Streamlined institutional framework for policy making and implementation.
7. Introduced legislation to protect the rights of landlords as well as 8.6 million people living in tenanted accommodation.