



BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE

New homes on way in Africa

■ By CIARA CUNNANE

THE 500 busy Irish volunteers toiling all week long to build 75 new houses for grateful locals in South Africa are set to unveil the fruits of their labour.

The volunteers are taking part in the seventh Niall Mellon Township Trust (NMTT) building blitz in Mbekweni, 60km from Cape Town.

One of those set to benefit is 61-year-old Nomvume Nelani.

Nelani is so excited she has walked two kilometres from her shack to the site of her future house almost every day since the building blitz began on Saturday.

Improved

She has been living with her 28-year-old son, 25-year-old daughter and five-year-old grandson in her ramshackle, two-roomed abode for the past six years.

The future owners of the NMTT houses have all qualified for a government housing subsidy of €4,000, to which the NMTT provides an additional €1,200.

This helps to provide improved trusses and tiles, a solar-powered geyser, a proper kitchen cupboard and sink unit, lights in each room and a back door.

Handover

Nelani has been on the housing list for 19 years, and cannot believe her dream of having her own brick-and-mortar house is coming true.

"Sometimes this week I've spent the whole day alone just thinking about my house," she revealed.

Meanwhile, site foreman John Moore said the blitz is on track and each of the 10 building teams will have an official handover of house keys to their owners tomorrow.



EXCITED: Nomvume in the doorway of her future home



VOLUNTEERS:
Ann Donohue
and Michelle
Foley, both from
Co Dublin