

## **PRESS STATEMENT** **12 December 2016**

### **Thembelihle Scoops Most Integrated Community Award in South Africa**

Johannesburg - Thembelihle Crisis Committee (TCC) has been awarded the most integrated community award at the Mkhaya Migrant Award, an initiative of the Department of Home Affairs, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. The informal settlement was nominated for their commitment in ensuring that their community is receptive to foreign national living and trading in Thembelihle.

Their compelling act was documented in June 2016 by Planact, a Johannesburg based community driven non-profit organisation engaging in participatory governance and integrated human settlement. The most integrated community category honoured individuals / communities who spearhead the demonstration of the spirit of Ubuntu towards migrants and foreign nationals by promoting tolerance, integration, unity and social cohesion.

To accept the award was Sphiwe Segodi, spokesperson of the Thembelihle Crisis Committee. The award for this category was presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Veronica Modey-ebi and South Africa's Sophie Ndaba.

Thembelihle is an informal settlement in the South of Johannesburg, near Lenasia. A short film, submitted to Mkhaya Migrants Awards gives an unheard of perspective of a community coming together to defend the rights and safety of foreign nationals living and trading in the township as told by the community members themselves. Watch here > <http://bit.ly/2gQdqvL>

### **Planact's role in Thembelihle**

Planact has been involved in the development of Thembelihle Informal Settlement and has been instrumental in the organisational development of the TCC, since 2003. Planact is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that was established in 1985 and is located in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was originally a collaboration between professionals and volunteers to provide services to established community organizations with a focus on advocating for alternative development plans, along with the drafting of policies for inclusion of the civic voice in policy development processes during the transition to democracy. Planact has evolved over the years to promote social justice.

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