



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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BUDGET AIMED AT INCREASING ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

The Department of Human Settlements is set to continue to widen access to adequate housing for the benefit of Mpumalanga citizens, this as it plans to deliver **70 481** housing opportunities over the 2019- 2020 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period. This was a pronouncement made by MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Norah Mahlangu when tabling her Policy and Budget Speech for 2019/20 financial year at the Provincial Legislature, on Thursday this week. The budget vote presentation is the first in the current sixth administration, thus setting the tone for the entire five year period.

Notwithstanding the country's shortfalls in revenue collection over the past five years, MEC Mahlangu announced the budget of **R1.674 billion**, with clear priorities and delivery plans for the current financial year. "As stated before, the total budget allocation for 2019/20 has shown a decrease of 14% when compared to the adjusted budget of the previous financial year. However, the department plans to deliver a staggering **6 694** housing units, **5000** service sites, and register **15 000** title deeds which will yield **11 694** housing opportunities as some of the core deliverables in the current financial year", she said.

In addressing the gnawing challenges of water and ailing sanitation infrastructure in the province, MEC Mahlangu committed that she will improve their relationship with the private sector to tackle these challenges. "The sewer spillages in Govan Mbeki and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities remain some of the biggest challenges that the department, together with the private sector in some areas continue to address. To this end, the department has plans to complete six bulk water and sanitation projects", announced the MEC. She added that the highlight amongst these will be conclusion of the Tekwane South Bulk Sewer Outfall project which will unlock the completion of the Tekwane South Housing Project at the City of Mbombela.

She further stated in ensuring that there is an increased rental space and people are close to where they work the department will be commencing with Community Residential Units (CRUs). "We will commence with the construction of five (05) new CRUs in Sonheuwel, Malalane, Sabie, Umjindi and Reabota areas which will be implemented over the MTSF period, whilst completing the old on-going CRUs projects in Standerton and Govan Mbeki Local Municipalities", she said. She concluded that other Social Economic Facilities will be delivered at Victor Khanye, Nkomazi, Lekwa and Dipaleseng Local Municipalities. The department was also commended for being the best in human settlements delivery in the country for the previous financial year.

**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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