



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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COLLABORATIVE ACTION IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DELIVERY

Achieving sustainable integrated human settlements requires a shared vision and sync planning across the spheres of government. These are sentiments by the Mpumalanga Human Settlements MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo during the MUNIMEC session recently in Ermelo, Gert Sibande District Municipality. The engagement sought to deal with immediate service delivery issues or challenges in the sector and improve performance in delivering sustainable human settlements. In attendance, were Executive Mayor and councillors responsible for human settlements, planning and infrastructure development.

The session was convened when significant parts of the province were hit by the storm, which prompted the declaration of a state of disaster. As a result disaster is among the issues presented. Acting Head, Ms Hazel Zitha, appraised municipalities on the state of emergency and the necessary interventions to ensue from the government. "As we continue with our assessment and verification processes, we urge the affected municipalities to work with us in identifying and accessing the damaged houses", urged Zitha. She added that upon completing this process, the department should formally request emergency funding from the National Department of Human Settlements. Moreover, the department works around the clock to ensure that all affected are provided with temporary residential units as a relief measure.

Other issues canvassed at the session related to the blocked projects and enrolment. MEC Mashilo called for concerted efforts by the department and the municipalities. As such, Mashilo made an undertaking to visit these projects across the province as it delays access to housing. "Our people need houses, and we cannot have projects that are not moving. The municipalities must also engage these contractors at their level to have them delivered on time", charged Mashilo. Moreover, municipalities were called on to approve the new building plans to accelerate the enrolment of projects. The Department will be making submissions to each local municipality requesting approval for such building plans.

To ensure the proper provision of infrastructure, the municipalities were requested to make additional funding available to construct roads to a higher level of service, such as surfaced roads and concrete drains/ piped stormwater. In addition, the transition towards innovative water metering systems in the new settlements must be prepared for and require municipalities to budget for. The available quantum only covers internal services of water, sewer reticulation, gravelling and earth V-drains.

Adding his voice, Gert Sibande District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu emphasized that, "this gathering is a continuation of an extensive planning process in order to ensure that we come up with a short, medium and long-term vision in our resolve to address complex problems". Concluding the session, Mashilo reiterated the call to curb land invasion, which contributing to the number of households affected by the storm as they reside in inhabitable spaces. Moreover, the provincial government will use its bulk infrastructure budget to assist municipalities in ensuring people are settled in dignified environments

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE



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