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## MASHISHING TOWNSHIP EXTENSION 6 BULK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

As part of its mandate to provide sustainable and integrated human settlements, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements is making significant strides in delivering essential and sustainable infrastructure. One of the key projects, the Mashishing Township Extension 6 bulk infrastructure initiative in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality is now 95% complete. The R10 million project, which had previously stalled due to cash flow issues and required blasting operations, has resumed and is on track for completion by the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

During the week-long National Council of Provinces' (NCOP) oversight visit to assess the state of service delivery in the area on Wednesday, (18/09/2024), Mr. Thisha Mhlanga, Acting on behalf of the Head of Human Settlements, emphasized the department's commitment to addressing infrastructure backlogs. "We are pleased to report that the Mashishing Extension 6 project is nearing completion, and we are working hard to ensure that it is finalised within the set timeframe," said Mhlanga.

Speaking on behalf of the Mpumalanga Executive Council, Health MEC, Ms Sasekani Manzini stated that the project is a critical component of the department's broader efforts to deliver integrated human settlements that include the necessary bulk infrastructure for water and sanitation. This move was welcomed by community member who said "the provision of bulk will assist us a lot to address sewer spillage and living in safe space", stressed Richard Mosehla. Alongside the Mashishing Extension 6 project, the department is also servicing 579 stands in Mashishing Extensions 6, 108, and 110.

These efforts underscore the department's dedication to improving the quality of life for residents by ensuring that housing delivery is accompanied by essential services. Speaking after the visit, Mr Mtikeni Sibande, a delegate to the NCOP, reaffirmed the NCOP's oversight role to ensure accountability and a focused approach to addressing challenges of service delivery that many municipalities face. The Department of Human Settlements continues to work closely with municipalities and other government departments to implement long-term solutions for bulk water and sanitation infrastructure across the province.

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