



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC MASHILO ADVOCATES FOR STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT IN SERVICE DELIVERY

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Speed Mashilo, has urged public servants to adopt a unified vision centred on the well-being of Mpumalanga's residents. At the two-day inaugural Strategic Planning Session in Mbombela, Mashilo highlighted the importance of coherent planning and service alignment to achieve integrated human settlements across the province.

"We are all important, and we must serve the entire population of Mpumalanga," said Mashilo, urging officials to channel their collective efforts to pursue and achieve department's goals. He reiterated that the recent merger of the Departments of Human Settlements and Cooperative Governance into CoGHSTA is a significant but incremental process, aimed at enhancing coordination and advancing Mpumalanga's developmental priorities.

Mashilo highlighted that the failure to provide essential infrastructure is a "miscarriage of an ideal human settlement delivery." He also emphasized aligning municipal and provincial services to ensure the realisation of the objects of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000. This Act is intended bolster internal capacity and improve the performance of municipalities, thus creating a strong foundation for service delivery.

Municipalities welcomed these strategic objectives, with stakeholders viewing the session as a catalyst for the District Development Model (DDM). "The merging of the two Departments appeals to the crux of the DDM as it will help align local municipalities' planning with human settlements grants", alluded Siphon Tibane, General Manager for Strategic and Social Services from Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

On traditional leadership, Mashilo expressed concern over the rising number of applicants for senior traditional leadership positions, noting the potential community tensions. "As we deal with these issues, we must avoid creating tensions among Amakhosi and ensure proper demarcations," he said, reaffirming government support as the department prepares to appoint 287 headmen and headwomen across the province.

The message of unity and strategic alignment underscores CoGHSTA's commitment to delivering services that uplift communities and strengthen Mpumalanga's social fabric. Through strategic planning, capacity building, and infrastructure development, CoGHSTA aims to create sustainable human settlements and support traditional leadership structures that foster social cohesion and stability.

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