



**Press release
04 March 2016**

NEARLY R40 MILLION OF HOUSING PROJECTS FOR BUSHBUCKRIDGE

Approximately **R40 million** has been set aside by the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements to deliver **300** low cost housing projects through rural development programme and servicing of **150** sites through the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) to benefit the community of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. The Department has resolved to prioritize servicing of sites in order to ensure that water, sanitation, electricity and access roads come first before top structures are built.

The fully serviced stands will enable the department to roll out low cost housing units (RDPs) which are given to needy beneficiaries. MEC Violet Siwela assured the community during an oversight and monitoring programme by the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature called - Taking the Legislature to People (TLP) – undertaken at Acornhoek, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

The community commended the manner in which the department has improved in providing housing and other essential services. Concurring with them, MEC Siwela indicated that, “we are great full as a Department to be commended by the community; it shows that there is improvement and we will continue to deliver quality houses and listen to your comment”. The TLP programme creates a platform for the legislature to undertake an oversight exercise on government’s performance and engage communities on service delivery. The visit was undertaken between 29 February – 04 March 2016.

At the beginning of the current financial year (2015/16), the department had committed to deliver 8260 serviced sites, 9105 low cost houses and 196 other units. As at the end of January 2016, a total of 4116 sites have been serviced and 8259 units delivered. “The department has depicted a huge success rate by improving the lives of the less – fortune and people living below the bread line, concluded Siwela.

During last week’s State of the Province Address, Premier DD Mabuza stated that provision of new services and addressing the backlogs will always remain uppermost on government agenda in the context of challenges such as a growing population, rural and urban migration, safe energy generation, water scarcity and drought. “The Provincial Government is working closely with local government, and has taken a firm decision to dedicate significant resources to the eradication of water and sanitation backlogs in the Province”, charged Premier Mabuza.

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