



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CONTRACTORS GET THE NOD FOR MEETING TARGETS

The Head of Department for Mpumalanga Human Settlements Mr Kebone Masange supportively met all departmental contractors earlier today at the City of Mbombela's Council Chamber to commend them for their tremendous achievement of the last quarter. Masange who undoubtedly expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the Department has reached its set targets, expatiated in saying that there has been incredible improvement as compared to the delivery the Department has done the previous year at around the same time.

Despite appraising the commendable feat at service delivery the HOD mentioned that the meeting also forms part of his quarterly interactive engagements to discuss generic issues affecting human settlements and the progress made to this end. "I am impressed by the level of progress you have made to this day. This goes to show our essence why we are rated one of the top three provinces in the country at delivering quality houses effectively within their set targets. In our first quarter we had targeted 1210 units amazingly we have managed to achieve 1538 of them. Subsequently, on the second quarter our target was 2107 and the achievement was 2022 with an excess of 85 houses which I find impressive," he said.

Masange however declared that if everyone on board including the contractors would not lose the grip and held tightly it won't be difficult to achieve the remaining 4600 units for the two remaining quarters. "It is very important to put up your best game everytime you do your work. This is why we do not appreciate any shoddy work because if that happens we would have failed the people whom we serve – the underprivileged," he warned explaining further that the National Department has undertaken a decision to increase the subsidy quantum from R110 000 to R116 000 by the first of April 2018.

However, the HOD made mention that every unit that would not be finished come the beginning of April next year would not be considered for the increase in quantum as well as the multi-year projects that are since still under construction. He also highlighted dissatisfaction at contractors who still used steel doors at some of the units saying that those doors were outdated and not of good quality. Although making serious remarks to say come rain or no rain, slack or no slack all targets must be completed on time to avoid losing out budget to Treasury, a few contractors still had a challenge with late payments and other related hiccups with councillors and subcontractors who allegedly interfered with their work on the field.

Sharing his frustrations, Mr Elphus Ngoveni worried that in many cases the Department took long to pay for work carried out on geotech phases which subsequently put a lot of strain for many contractors to continue without proper financial muscles. He said, "That area must be fixed before it is too late. I believe that if this can be sorted out every work will be done smoothly without having to be at each other's toes." Masange committed to address this issue internally with his team of engineers to avoid any future confusion.

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