



**Press Release  
15 September 2016**

**INFRASTRUCTURE INTERVENTION FOR LEKWA BNG PROJECT**

Efforts to unlock infrastructure challenges at a multi-year human settlements project at Standerton Extension 8, Lekwa in Mpumalanga are being intensified. The Provincial Human Settlements Department has set aside R3 million to assist the Lekwa Local Municipality to provide water and sewer infrastructure to mitigate challenges affecting the project. The project was initiated by the municipality in 2013 to develop 300 hectares into an integrated residential development programme.

The IRDP project was initiated to deliver about 2000 government low cost houses (RDPs), 2000 bonded units for middle income earners, regional shopping mall and two filling stations. It was to further provide five schools, clinic and a community center. The required services include water purification plant, sewer pump stations, bulk electricity and electricity connections. These interventions will be jointly funded by the Department and the municipality through its Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

The project has to date delivered 500 low cost houses with a budget of R51 million and installed internal engineering services at R22 million. The Provincial Legislature has engaged the Department during its Taking Legislature to the People Programme (TLP) currently underway at Lekwa. MEC Speedy Mashilo has held meetings with the municipality, contractor and CoGTA to develop a clear on how to expedite the interventions. Addressing the portfolio committee on this and other projects, Mashilo indicated that, ***“all stakeholders have conceded that there are challenges that are affecting the project and an immediate solution has since been identified”***.

Member of the Legislature, Ms. Jeanet Nkonzweni challenged the Department and the municipality to deliver on the outstanding infrastructure services as a matter of urgency. ***“The lack of infrastructure in that project has far reaching implications on its well-being and the plight of people”***, she charged. The committee ordered the Department in collaboration with the municipality and CoGTA to develop a clear and realistic implementation plan to address the challenges at the project. The TLP enhances public participation and conducting oversight on government's work.

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