



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINING TOWNS TO RECEIVE A LIFELINE

People living in the mining areas can now brace themselves for new developments during this financial year. These pronouncements were made by MEC for Human Settlements, Ms Violet Siwela when she tabled her 2015/16 budget of **R1.677 billion** at the provincial legislature on Thursday, 28 May 2015. The eMalahleni, Steve Tshwete and Thaba Chweu Local Municipalities will benefit through the revitalization of mining areas through the delivery of infrastructure projects.

With three local municipalities still snowed under relentless housing backlogs in the mining areas, MEC Siwela declared that the Department had set aside a projected amount of **R98 million** to service 3000 sites and deliver 653 low cost houses including 21 houses for military veterans in the eMalahleni Local municipality with an addition of 50 through institutional subsidies. The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality will receive **R51 million** on serviced sites, housing units and community residential units while Thaba Chweu Local Municipality will benefit as there will be continuous construction on government subsidized units at various areas and multi-year projects at Sabie.

MEC Siwela emphasized that, **“the revitalisation of mining towns seek to mitigate challenges bedeviling these areas after mines have shut down leading to dwindling infrastructure and economic slump.”** She mentioned that the Department has a mandate to provide adequate housing and integrated human settlements hence in this financial year, a total number of 17 561 housing opportunities will be delivered. This constitute 9 301 housing units and 8 260 sites across the province,” said Siwela.

She also stated that the Department will also empower youth with the allocation of R70 million to deliver projects and training as alluded to by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu at the launching of the Youth Brigade Programme. The Department has also dedicated 30% of its budget to benefit women contractors to empower them through the delivery of 1956 houses within a financial year. **“Given this intervention, it remains our belief as the department that a turnaround in development will be realised by these areas, therefore leading to expansive economic activities and better living conditions”**, concluded Siwela.

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