



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MILLIONS FOR WATER AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Persistent water and sanitation challenges will receive special attention at four municipalities in Mpumalanga following a huge financial injection from the provincial government. The local municipalities of eMalahleni, Dipaleseng, Bushbuckridge and Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme will have **R261 million** to improve their water and sanitation infrastructure as pronounced by Human Settlements MEC Violet Siwela during the tabling of the 2016/17 Budget Vote at the legislature last week.

The Department is mandated to facilitate integrated sustainable human settlements with the provision of basic services such as water, roads, electricity, and social as well as economic facilities. “As part of our integrated development strategy it is prudent that we build our houses where there are serviced sites, access to roads and other acceptable social amenities”, pointed Siwela. The improvement of water and sanitation infrastructure is done in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA).

Siwela further mentioned that an additional **R12 million** will be utilised to install high mast lights at Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli, and Mbombela Local Municipalities. “As a Department, we have crafted clear plans to ensure the realisation of integrated sustainable human settlements. Over the years, significant strides have been made towards the delivery of services, however, clearing the human settlements backlog remains a challenge that we are working around the clock to curb it,” she explained.

The pronouncements were further supported by the Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr. Thulare Madileng by exclaiming that, “Our province has invested the implementation of the Human Settlements Master Plan to improve the lives of people” The plan seeks to ensure effective long term planning, guide potential development initiatives; and ensuring more integrated development through stakeholder engagement. The Department provided five water plagued municipalities with over 150 Jojo tanks last financial year.

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