



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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MUNICIPALITIES URGED TO EMBRACE INTEGRATED PLANNING

Municipalities have been urged to ensure that all service delivery challenges in communities are detected early. A two day workshop on the development of a human settlements policy implored local government to play a pivotal role in planning and delivery. The consultative meeting with stakeholders within the construction sector discussed the newly proposed integrated human settlements policy at a session held at Ingwenyama Lodge, in White River, Mbombela last week.

Addressing the stakeholders, Head of Department, Mr. Kebone Masange said that for the Department to be at the top of its game municipalities must also be willing to assimilate some of their functions to complement what the Department is willing to achieve, **“If things do not work down there at the local sphere, we surely are going to have a problem with delivering adequate services,”** he warned. The proposed policy document is sought to conclude into the development of a new Human Settlements Act revoking the current Housing Act (Act 107) of 1997 in accordance with the government’s futuristic development strategy.

This second phase of consultations was aimed at bringing all key role players of the Department to discuss and petition inputs with which the Department can develop the envisaged draft policy document to enable the organization to create an integrated sustainable human settlements that corresponds with the trajectory of the National Development Plan

Sharing Masange’s sentiments was MEC Violet Siwela emphasized that the development and implementation of housing and human settlements reforms, legislative framework, policies and programmes require new thinking that will respond to the emerging challenges while addressing future needs. **“Our gathering has to take into account where the country comes from, current situation and what we – as a collective would want to shape the country’s development”**, charged MEC Siwela.

The Department has over the years evolved in relation to policy especially during the introduction of the Breaking New Ground (BNG) approach. This strategy intended to guide housing development and promoting the achievement of a non-racial, integrated society through the development of integrated, sustainable human settlements and quality housing. Masange mentioned that local government has so far been doing well in educating traditional leaders to come on board in terms of allowing developments to take place in their areas of ownership.

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