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OVER 11 000 UISP SITES SERVICED SINCE 2019

The Department of Human Settlements has a mandate to create an integrated sustainable human settlement in communities which requires structured planning and stakeholder involvement. Utilizing the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP), the department has serviced over 11,000 sites in informal settlements across the province over the past five years. This significant achievement aligns with the department's Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) objectives, focusing on in-situ upgrading, potential relocation, and resettlement efforts.

The UISP approach involves enhancing existing informal settlements to foster a more habitable environment, divided into three phases. Phase one encompasses auditing, household counting, and infrastructure assessment. The second phase includes developing layout plans, resettling and realigning shacks, creating access roads, and providing interim services such as gravel roads and water pipes. The final phase entails electrification, installation of permanent sewer lines, and road construction.

Acknowledging the increasing number of informal settlements, Human Settlement MEC Mr. Speed Mashilo highlighted population growth and rapid urbanization as primary drivers. The department's proactive response includes the creation of the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant, dedicated to addressing this issue. MEC Mashilo emphasized the importance of aligning informal settlement upgrading programs and projects with national and provincial policies, ensuring effective implementation.

Furthermore, the department recognizes the support of the National Urban Settlement Programme (NUSP), which has provided technical and capacity support to both the province and municipalities. This collaborative effort enhances the incremental implementation of informal settlements upgrading, integrating with other housing programs for comprehensive development.

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