



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PROVINCE ON TRACK TO ADDRESS INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

In its quest to ensure that historical spatial arrangements are addressed with promotion of liveable communities, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements has delivered **1820** housing units through the informal settlements upgrading programme in the current financial year (2019/20). During the same period, **2 435** sites have been serviced against a 5000 set target. These milestones were recorded as the department is joining the world to celebrate World Habitat Month (October) as adopted by the United Nations.

In line with this year's theme: frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth, MEC Mahlangu said that the department has set technology use and Public and Private Sector Partnership as key of government imperatives. ***"In the current five year period we seek to work closely with the private sector to develop major development projects that brings together economic nodes, human settlements, smart technologies and public transportation that impact on spatial transformation"***, stressed Mahlangu. Further, she added that there will be improved alignment of housing provision with other public investment.

Stressing on her message, MEC Mahlangu called upon all to embrace technology and seize the advantages it brings. Technology has great potential to improve how people work and live, to significantly accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address climate change. Frontier technologies, such as automation, robotics, electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies, biotechnologies, and artificial intelligence can transform the social, economic and environmental spheres. These can offer better, cheaper, faster, scalable and easy to use solutions for every-day problems, including waste management.

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. The Department is on course to deliver other services such as title deeds, rental units and socio-economic facilities throughout the province.

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