



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release
18 May 2016**

STAKEHOLDERS URGED TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING HUMAN SETTLEMENT GOALS.

Stakeholders have been urged to join forces at developing a provincial position on the development of integrated human settlements during the opening of a two-day workshop held at White River, Mpumalanga. The gathering which has brought together municipalities, government departments and agencies to influence the envisaged policy aims at soliciting inputs from all role players to craft a new policy directive to embrace the trajectory of integration and sustainability. The White Paper document will culminate into the development of a new Human Settlements Act repealing the current Housing Act (Act 107) of 1997 in accordance with the government's futuristic development strategy - National Development Plan (NDP).

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. In line with the country's futuristic planning blue-print, the National Development Plan (NDP) directs a new trajectory of integration and sustainability. "Our gathering here during this two days ought 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 and delivery methodologies 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.

The sector continues to be plagued by scarce financial resources, escalating demand for housing, spiraling informal settlements, rapid rate of urbanization, and high rate of unemployment. The NDP therefore compels the sector to review housing policies to better realize constitutional housing rights and comprehensive development. Continued MEC Siwela, "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".

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