



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release**  
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### **CHARGING TOWARDS LIVABLE LIVELIHOODS**

Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements has recorded the approval of seven (**07**) township establishments across the province and a total of sixty-four (**64**) upgrading plans were developed in the current 2019/20 financial year. This feat was reported at the quarterly Upgrading of Informal Settlements Provincial Forum held recently at Msukaligwa Local Municipality. The forum was convened to look at the milestones, challenges and effective interventions for ultimate realization of adequate housing and livable livelihood.

Mpumalanga Provincial Champion for the Upgrading of Informal Settlements, Ms Buyisiwe Zuma indicated that the Department, Sector Departments and Municipalities must take pride in the accomplishments given the challenges encountered in the process of the upgrading and upscaling of informal settlements. “We must all have a sense of pride for these achievements given the challenges we had to deal with. Insufficient funding and budget cuts presented us a challenge in getting things done”, alluded Zuma. She also added that acquiring land suitable for human settlements cannot be understated as a challenge that the Department seeks to deal with.

Notwithstanding these challenges Ms Zuma had words of encouragement and gratitude to stakeholders who have always availed their expertise and time to pursue informal settlements upgrading in the province. “I must appreciate the relations we have with all stakeholders in particular, municipalities. All the township establishments approvals can only be attributed cordial working relations with municipalities. “We would not be here without the interventions and support of our stakeholders”, expressed Zuma. She further added that the draft Informal Settlements Upgrading and Management Strategy has been submitted to the National Department of Human Settlements.

The Provincial NUSP Forum is held quarterly to share knowledge with stakeholders with the view to improve on delivery and track the progress made in upgrading of informal settlements across the province. It is also aimed at ensuring that there is a full realisation of Outcome Eight (8) as encapsulated in the country’s futuristic guide – National Development Plan (NDP). The Forum is attended by Town Planners, Planning Managers, Human Settlements Officials and other sector Departments and stakeholders from across the Province.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**  
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