



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

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HOLISTIC INTERVENTIONS NEEDED TO EXPEDITE PROJECTS DELIVERY

The apparent poor cooperation by some municipalities in delivering human settlements projects is a serious concern for newly deployed Human Settlements MEC Norah Mahlangu. Addressing a two-day Departmental Strategic Planning and Review Session at White River at the City of Mbombela, Mahlangu bemoaned the invasion of houses by unlawful beneficiaries, slow progress on projects, stand-off between contractors and certain groupings and lack of transparent and equitable processes in beneficiary identification in some Municipalities amongst others are stubborn challenges affecting the roll-out of integrated projects in Mpumalanga.

The two-day session which is reviewing the 2017/18 performance and crafting new plans for the 2018/19 financial year heard that there is a need to develop a seamless system to facilitate the delivery of projects. "My office will ensure that we hold MuniMEC meetings to close the cracks between us and municipalities. These meetings will assist us to bring together these important spheres of government closer and clarify the apparent confusion that exists during and after performing our work", charged MEC Mahlangu. Some of the concerns were also raised at the recently conducted Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) at eMalahleni Local Municipality.

During the TLP meeting, communities bemoaned the apparent poor implementation of projects, lack of transparent and equitable processes in beneficiary identification, inadequate stakeholder consultation by the department. Mahlangu continued, "**At the rate at which these issues are being raised, it then suggests that it is imperative to strengthen our relations with stakeholders to work better and deliver efficient services to our people**". The department has performed well by delivering 8 734 housing units, serviced 4 230 sites and issued 5 000 title deeds during the 2017/18 financial year. Concurring with MEC Mahlangu, Human Settlements Head, Mr Kebone Masange indicated that there are some municipalities from some of the districts that are pulling the department down.

The former MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation (DCSR) has joined the department of human settlements following the recent reconfiguration of the Executive Council by Premier Refilwe Mtsweni. "**We are going to eMalahleni, Victor Khanye and eMakhazeni Local Municipalities to tackle some of the persistent challenges bedeviling these areas**", concluded Mahlangu. She also used the address to pay homage to the late African National Congress's Winnie Madikizela-Mandela who died recently and joined the country in commemorating former leader of the South African Communists Party, Chris Hani who was brutally killed in 1993. MEC Mahlangu has replaced MEC Speed Mashilo who has been re-deployed to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA).

ISSUED BY COMMUNICATION SERVICES
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT PERSON: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ flngobe@mpg.gov.za

