



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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HOUSING NEEDS SURGE IN EMERGENT COMMUNITIES

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements is continuing with its efforts to provide sustainable and quality shelter to all qualifying citizens in the Province. The Department is ensuring that quality and decent houses are constructed to restore the dignity of the vulnerable groups of the society and the previously disadvantaged. Before that can be realized, qualifying beneficiaries have to apply for houses as guided by the Department's prescribed policies. Amid these expansions in housing demands, it is the relentless number of applicants who appear to be unfamiliar with the application processes to follow in order to acquire a government low cost house.

Despite the new figure of about 6900 recorded housing need applications throughout the province, there are still quite a dismaying number of applicants who would not follow the due processes of applying for houses. Department's Head of Beneficiary Management, Mr. Logan Appasamy revealed that the application processes require an extensive cooperation between government and the beneficiaries and it should be followed to the latter. "Through the selection of beneficiaries the priority is given to the elderly, the child-headed households, orphans and people with disabilities. All the other qualifying beneficiaries not in the priority list will then be considered afterwards", he stated.

The requirement process has several aspects that are looked into before applications are submitted for approval which amongst them includes that one should be a lawful South African citizen in possession of a permanent residence permit. Appasamy further advised that beneficiaries must have a monthly household income not exceeding R3500; they must be over the age of 18 years and of sound mind; must not have benefited from government assistance, applicable to the elderly - persons classified as aged as well as persons living with disabilities, the Orphaned or child-headed households.

In addition to this, Appasamy advised that the application process of a subsidized house is, however, two-fold and that the second part also afforded middle income earners an opportunity to apply for housing assistance such as serviced sites, rental accommodation, and subsidy houses etc. "They should however register first their needs with the local municipality, and these requirements are captured on what is referred to as the Housing Needs Register (NHR). Potential beneficiaries will be sourced from the Housing Needs Register; such persons must ensure that their details are continuously updated at the Municipality whenever there are changes including their contact details etc.," he concluded. The Department has cautioned beneficiaries against the selling or renting out their houses.

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