



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release  
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**MEC MAHLANGU CALLS FOR COMMITMENT IN DELIVERING SERVICES**

Just few hours after new Human Settlements MEC, Norah Mahlangu was deployed to her new portfolio, she committed to doing more ground work when she met the Department's Executive Management recently. The former MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation who is now the political head for human settlements joined the department sequel to the reconfiguration of the Executive Council by Premier Refilwe Mtsweni recently. In her brief meeting with the Head of human settlements and the executive management, Mahlangu emphasized the need for respect, commitment and teamwork amongst all stakeholders.

The high level meeting with management stressed on concerns raised at the recently conducted Taking Legislature to the People (TLP) at eMalahleni Local Municipality. Communities bemoaned the apparent poor implementation of projects, inept beneficiary management, and inadequate stakeholder consultation by the department during service delivery. MEC Mahlangu noted these concerns with grief and stressed that a follow up engagement is necessary. "As a matter of urgency, I will request the HOD to facilitate an urgent meeting with the eMalahleni Local Municipality and affected stakeholders to ensure that we develop a plan to intervene on these matters", charged Mahlangu.

In his short presentation, Head of Human Settlements, Mr Kebone Masange indicated that the department has made great progress in human settlements planning and delivery of title deeds over the years. "We are doing well with our targets, despite the fact that bulk infrastructure challenges in the areas of eMalahleni, Tekwane, Victor Khanye, amongst others are cause for concern", he cited. The Department has thus far delivered 8563 housing units against an annual target of 8173 for the year ending March 2018.

The former MEC for DCSR who has replaced MEC Speed Mashilo believes in teamwork and community engagement as opposed to boardroom meetings. She points out, "I do not want to be your boss, but a political team leader and I am not here to change things, rather support all of you politically". First on her agenda will be to go on a massive title deeds issuing drive, tackling bulk infrastructure challenges and upgrading of informal settlements as key priorities for this government. Not new to the provincial administration, MEC Mahlangu wants to dedicate her time more on field-work and make a meaningful contribution towards developing people's lives.

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