



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEETING TARGET DESPITE TOUGH FISCAL PERIOD

Contractors delivering services for the Department of Human Settlements have been lauded for their sterling work which helped the Department to reach and surpass its set target of 8000 units by registering a total of 10 000 housing units. Following a successful period in many years, Head of Department Mr Kebone Masange met with all contractors recently at the City of Mbombela to laud them for their sterling progress. Masange, however, advised of the probable tough times ahead following the Department's reduced budget for the financial year.

During the 2018/19 financial year, the Department saw its budget reduced with the amount of R200 million. Addressing the contractors, he confirmed that despite the budget cut, the Department managed to continue doing better which gained the province plausible recognition at the recent National Govan Mbeki Annual Awards held at the East London Convention Centre, Eastern Cape where Mpumalanga was declared the best in human settlements delivery.

“It is with great gratitude to notice the progress we have made as a Department in the Province. However, that doesn't mean we should sit on our laurels and relax. There is quite a number of work that is still left to be done as is the escalating demand in housing for proper human settlements,” said Masange who added that this year the Department will see slight drop of units and sites owing to the anticipated budget reduction for the 2019/20 fiscal period.

“We are unfortunate as a province that at the time when we are performing well we have a challenge of a restricted budget. We had hope that since there were other struggling provinces who were failing to meet their targets their grants were going to be shifted to us unfortunately that has not yet happened. We are aware that some of our contractors have not yet been paid and this is owing to the challenges we have had as a Province emanated from amongst others, the disaster that rocked the province earlier last year,” clarified Masange.

The Department has been working around the clock to ensure that all contractors who have not yet been paid get their monies but this is as soon as the National Department finalises the payments to the provincial Department of Treasury. Masange, however stated that in a case where a contractor had payment issues with his suppliers, they are therefore advised to seek a confirmation letter from the Department which will stipulate as proof that the affected contractor has not yet received payment from the Department.

**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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