



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release**  
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**THUMBS UP FOR THE PROVINCIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FORUM**

The Provincial Upgrading Informal Settlements Forum has been commended for its tremendous improvement in tackling informal settlements in Mpumalanga. The National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) acknowledged this during a workshop in Mbombela this week. The quarterly forum was launched late in 2016 with the aim to tackle the ever increasing informal settlements issues and was established with the support from the National Department of Human Settlements.

During the workshop Ms Buyisiwe Zuma, Director for Integrated Human Settlements Planning who is also the Mpumalanga Provincial Coordinator/ Champion for the NUSP Forum in the Province, said that the purpose for this last workshop of the financial year is to plan a way forward for the next financial year and also unpack the resolutions of the human settlements summit which took place in September, 2017.

“The province is leading the process towards the development of the framework for the provincial informal settlement strategies, and as such, a template has been developed by the province and will be used to benchmark on nationally,” said Zuma. She thanked all stakeholders and municipalities for their commitment and corporation towards this great achievement. Capacity Development Coordinator Ms Mala Ramanna emphasized the critical role that the Mpumalanga province and municipalities play towards implementing the programme of activities that emanated from the previous resolution.

Inputs from the province and its municipalities that are actively enhancing and improving informal upgrading processes will assist in future planning to address in the upgrading of informal settlements. Ramanna indicated that “the role of the provincial government in upgrading informal settlement is to develop a guideline framework for the province’s upgrading and management strategy and to establish provincial UISP for an improved coordination with all municipalities”. Informal settlement upgrading is a key agenda item for the creation of sustainable human settlements and restoring the dignity of millions of South Africans who reside in slums. The National Department has developed the NUSP as a tool to assist municipalities and provincial departments to achieve the Medium Term Strategies Framework targets towards upgrading informal settlements.

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