



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release**  
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## **UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENT STILL REMAINS KEY**

Informal settlement upgrading in the province continues to play a pivotal role in order to create a sustainable human settlements and restoring the dignity of millions of South Africans who still reside in slums. This sentiments were echoed by the Acting Provincial Chairperson for Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) Ms Charlotte Poulten at their recent visual quarterly meeting at the provincial office.

Poulten mentioned that the Department has ring-fenced **R162 million** solely for this purpose to help bring about estimable new upgrades in many underlying informal settlements in the province. “We have agreed at provincial level that we will work close with municipalities to implement the adopted strategies we have all formulated to boost the improvement of informal settlements,” she said.

However, the Acting Chairperson admitted that regardless of some many assessable progress they have made as a province there are still some few challenges along the processes with regards to financial constraints. She pleaded that despite these challenges, it is appropriate that all stakeholders including municipalities must have management processes and strategies in this regard in line with their Integrated Development Plans (IDP) to continue with the baton and work with the little they have.

The Department has utilised forty percent of the allocated budget which is **R25 million** for township establishment and has successfully been able to establish **16** approvals against the target of **23** for township establishments between the last financial year to date. Poulten commended all stakeholders including municipalities for their commitment and corporation towards this great achievement.

The forum recorded a number of improvements made in the province including servicing of sites and the acquisition of land in various Districts which helped the forum to start with the implementation of projects in various municipal jurisdictions. Mr Tom Zulu from the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality recapped that with the current pace and reputation the team is working at, the three remaining townships could be done before the current financial year lapses.

“With so much determination and the efforts all role players are putting in I am quite certain that it is just a matter of time before we are done with the establishment of the other three earmarked townships,” confidently said Zulu urging all stakeholders not to drop the ball despite the current challenges of Covid-19 and its deadly implications on work and the carrying out of projects.

Some municipalities still showed concern about the issue of land invasion saying that it perpetually and constantly continues to harbor their proper planning. The Provincial 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.

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**



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