



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

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WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF10) CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION

Stakeholders at the 10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) held recently in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates have called for urgent implementation of outcomes to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the development of communities. Team South Africa led by the Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Ms Pam Tshwete participated in discussions and side events. Amongst other engagements were innovations to realise apt social housing, community involvement in planning, and funding mobilization.

The forum under the banner of United Nation's Habitat which convenes at every two years brings together stakeholders within the planning and development sectors to share ideas and showcase best international practices on human settlements towards achieving sustainable development goals. Addressing the South African contingent which included provinces, agencies and metros, Deputy Minister Tshwete cited that as a country we ought to use this platform to tell the world about our success story, achievements of delivering more than four million houses for the needy and also learn from other countries and role players".

The 10th Session of the WUF was a momentous occasion for all stakeholders in sustainable urbanization to come together, join forces and build new partnerships. The Cities Investment Platform, launched at WUF10, aims to bring together cities with investors, foster new partnerships and provide opportunities to make sustainable urbanization investable. Participants agreed that at the heart of this discussions will be to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards a better and sustainable future. "Financing the delivery of the SDGs requires new approaches to project development and resource mobilisation", she charged.

The interactive session during WUF10 provided platforms for city leadership to present specific projects to a core group of experts, including private and commercial investors as well as international development banks and financial institutions. Some of the key projects were a case study on tackling informal settlements by eThekweni Metro and enhanced public participation and involvement in project delivery by the City of Cape Town. Mpumalanga Province participated in strategic sessions and side events with common features affecting the province such development of proper social housing and dealing with informal settlements.

WUF which is one of the most inclusive international gatherings on urban challenges aims to raise awareness of sustainable urbanisation among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public, improve collective knowledge on sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates and sharing lessons learnt. The tenth session at Abu Dhabi, UAE was held under the theme: Cities of Opportunities: Connecting culture and Innovation. The 11th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) will be held in Poland in 2022.

ISSUED BY COMMUNICATION SERVICES
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT PERSON: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ flngobe@mpg.gov.za

