



human settlements

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RENTAL HOUSING TRIBUNAL AIMS TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE

An efficient and competent government entity benefits from continuous capacity development. It is against this background that the Mpumalanga Rental Housing Tribunal Board recently held a seminar to enhance the tribunal's capacity to address rental disputes efficiently and promote fair housing practices. The seminar, which also inducted new members, was facilitated by the Organisation of Civil Rights in eMalahleni Local Municipality.

The session covered various critical topics, including unfair rental practices, operational procedures, and the specific roles and responsibilities of Tribunal Members and the Secretariat in hearing proceedings. A particular focus was given to spoliation in emergency or urgent applications, and a comprehensive review of the Rental Housing Amendment Act was provided to ensure all members are well-versed in the latest legislative updates.

Explaining the purpose and benefits of the seminar, Ms Nokuthula Nkosi, the Board's Secretariat stated that, "An efficient and competent entity grows and adapts over time. This seminar is essential as it equips our new members with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of rental disputes. By understanding the key roles and responsibilities of the Tribunal Members, we can ensure that hearing proceedings are conducted efficiently, particularly in urgent applications. Moreover, this induction empowers our board to uphold tenants' and landlords' rights and enforce the Rental Housing Amendment Act."

Board Chairperson, Ms Agnes MacDonald contextualised the board's mandate by stating: "The Tribunal Board is committed to ensuring that the rights of tenants and landlords are upheld, fostering a harmonious rental environment. Our mandate is to provide a fair and accessible platform for resolving rental disputes without requiring lengthy and costly court processes. This induction is critical in reinforcing our board's ability to deliver on this mandate effectively. By strengthening our operational capacity, we are better positioned to protect vulnerable tenants and ensure that landlords operate within the boundaries of the law."

The session was well received and appreciated by new members as informative and empowering. "Since I started in August doing the work of the tribunal, I have had a lot to comprehend. This session enhances my capabilities, as I will be more efficient going forward," appreciated Audrey Malika, a new Board Member. During the first quarter of the current financial year, the Tribunal successfully resolved 149 rental disputes of the planned 100 target. The Mpumalanga Rental Tribunal Board remains dedicated to fostering a fair and just rental market through informed and decisive action. The board is the department's entity reporting directly to the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) responsible for human settlements.

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