



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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GOVERNMENT ISSUES WARNING AGAINST HOUSING SCAMMERS

The Department would like to issue a stern warning to the public to remain vigilant against a rise in housing scams targeting unsuspecting residents. Fraudsters are falsely claiming to represent the Department and are using social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter), to trick victims into paying money for fraudulent government housing opportunities.

The Department emphasises that no payments are required for government-subsidised housing, and all applications must be processed directly through the Provincial Department of Human Settlements or local municipalities. Any claims to the contrary are fraudulent. MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Speed Mashilo, condemned these scams, stating, "It is heart-breaking to hear that vulnerable people are being exploited with false promises of housing opportunities. The only lawful way to access a government-subsidised house is to qualify after registering on the National Housing Needs Register (NHNR). This ensures fairness and prevents queue-jumping."

MEC Mashilo outlined red flags residents should watch for when approached with housing offers, such as demands for payment or claims of guaranteed priority access. He urged residents to familiarise themselves with these tactics to protect themselves. "These scams disproportionately impact the most desperate and vulnerable people. Residents must stay vigilant and update their details on the NHNR to ensure the Department can contact them directly when they qualify for a house," he added.

To qualify for a government-subsidised house, applicants must meet specific criteria, including being South African citizens, first-time homeowners, and having a combined household income of less than R3, 500 per month. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to providing safe and affordable housing opportunities to deserving South Africans while working tirelessly to ensure the process remains fair and transparent.

The Department urges residents to report any suspicious activities or verify information by contacting the Provincial Department of Human Settlements directly at 013 766 6088 or visiting their Local Municipality offices. Public cooperation is essential to combating these fraudulent schemes and ensuring that housing opportunities reach those who genuinely qualify.

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