



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

Press Release
22 June 2022

UPGRADING OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS PROIRITISED

In curbing the mushrooming of informal settlements in Mpumalanga, the Department of Human Settlements has budgeted over **R270 million** to deal with the upgrading of informal settlements in various parts of the province. This will yield a total of **3 400** serviced sites being delivered through the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP). This plan was announced by MEC Speed Mashilo during the recent Budget Speech presentation as part of the department's cutting-edge programmes for the current financial year. The programme focuses on tackling inadequate infrastructure, poor access to basic services, unsuitable and uncontrolled environments particularly in economic active areas where people migrate for better profitable opportunities.

Expounding on the programme, Mashilo said "our policy is clear that for those informal settlements on safe ground, the first choice is to upgrade in-situ. This means that the department will only build houses on a serviced sites/land with bulk infrastructure installed to create a sustainable human settlements" charged Mashilo. The rapid growth of informal settlements in all major cities and towns necessitated a review of funding frameworks. The department has created a dedicated Upgrading of Informal Settlements Grant Funding Framework, exclusively set up to address the upgrading of informal settlement challenges in the province.

The Department has a mandate to maximise the upgrading of informal settlements by urgently reaching out to many communities in inhabitable areas. "The programme seeks to eradicate among others; dwellings in shack houses and the occupation of derelict mud houses. It also enhances the concept of citizenship, incorporating both rights and obligations by formalising the tenure rights of the residents in the informal settlements" alluded Mashilo. He stressed that the department will continue working close with municipalities to improve the living condition of households.

Informal settlements are typified by the absence of formal planning and incremental unplanned growth. Municipalities therefore act as developers and projects are undertaken on the basis of a partnership and cooperation between the relevant municipality and the Department. Rapid urbanization and inadequate capability to cope with housing needs of people in urban areas have contributed to the mushrooming of informal settlements. The Department completed **2932** sites in the 2021/22 financial year through the upgrading of informal settlements programme. The overall budget for the 2022/23 financial year is **R1 506 885 000** and is envisaged to roll out serviced sites, deliver houses, socio-economic facilities, and title deeds, amongst other programmes.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ fngobe@mpg.gov.za

