



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### PLANS AFOOT TO COMPLETE UNFINISHED HOUSES

Hands are on deck as the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements sets to complete all unfinished houses throughout the province. This follows MEC Speedy Mashilo's call at the recently held forum of MEC and politicians responsible for human settlements and development in municipalities (MunMEC) to urgently deal with all incomplete houses that adversely affect the department's constitutional mandate to provide access to adequate housing. The Executive Mayors, Members of Mayoral Committees (MMCs) and senior managers attended the virtual session which aimed at taking stock on persistent challenges and outline new direction the department is taking in the year and beyond.

The incomplete house is understood to be a house abandoned by the contractor or terminated in different milestones. With this understanding, MEC Mashilo recounted Executive Council Lekgotla decision to have all houses completed. "EXCO Lekgotla took a resolution in June 2019 that Department of Human Settlements must develop a programme of action to address all the incomplete houses from the previous years", recounted Mashilo. He further noted that the status stands at the tally of 48 incomplete houses to be completed at the close of the second quarter.

The consolidation of the list sourced from municipalities reported 1191 incomplete houses however, upon physical verification by the Department the number drastically dwindled to 59 houses. Moreover, on further beneficiary verification on the Housing Subsidy System (HSS) and technical assessment, only 48 houses qualified for completion. "Most of the 1 191 houses listed by the municipalities were not necessarily incomplete houses but rather houses not built for waiting beneficiaries; still under construction; with pending issuance of title deeds; without external service connections; or with maintenance related issues" explained Mashilo.

The Department planned to deliver 31 324 housing units over the MTSF period, however has to navigate pertinent challenges such as the slow economic growth, the Covid-19 pandemic to mention but the few. It is again worth mentioning that the Department has downscaled on the delivery of top structures and moved towards more delivery of serviced. Thus, over the last seven financial years there has been a steady decline (69%) in housing delivery targets.

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