



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **SUMMIT CALLS FOR PROPER PLANNING AND LAND ADMINISTRATION**

Land availability remains a critical issue for the delivery of houses and general infrastructure especially with the ever-increasing population in Mpumalanga. This emanated at the recently held Nkangala Land and Human Settlements Summit that took place at Middelburg. The primary objective of the summit was to discuss land invasion, spatial planning, private sector contribution, and exploring innovative and transformative technologies and come up with sustainable solution in the interest of the people. It was in this summit where Human Settlements MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo reiterated the Department's resolve to combat illegal land invasions with the dictates of law. In attendance were delegates from government, private sector and community representatives.

Speaking at the summit, Acting Executive Mayor Cllr. Dipuo Mahlangu called on all spheres of government to work together in addressing the need for land. "The solution on the greater need for land in our country is of urgency. It also needs to be all government spheres responsibility to expedite land release", charged Mahlangu. She added that this will assist government in achieving its objectives of land reform while ensuring that more public land is used for public good.

Addressing the summit, MEC Mashilo cautioned about the detrimental effects of land invasion and its adverse results on service delivery. "The pieces of land that are invaded do not have basic services such as water and sanitation. This causes a delay for government to deliver houses to qualifying beneficiaries who have been on the waiting lists," charged Mashilo. He further harnessed the point that land invasions have adverse effects on government's planning and budgeting. He also called on law enforcement to act swiftly against perpetrators.

A call was made on government and private sector to ensure the safety and protection of their land against perpetual invasion. Government has introduced a new system that before building top structures, land needs to be serviced. Some of the issues topping the agenda was the challenge of bulk infrastructure and beneficiary administration. Thus, the summit called for proper planning and consultation in all the spheres of government to achieve the sustainable human settlements in the province. The summit was held under the theme – **"Unlocking and accelerating access to land and human settlements."**

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**ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**  
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