



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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EXPERTS IN BUILT SECTOR MEET TO DEFINE NEW ROADMAP

Sound and collective planning remains key in the establishment of integrated sustainable human settlements in communities. This pronouncement was made by Dr Zoleka Sokopo from the National Department of Human Settlements during the development of a five-year plan, otherwise referred to as a Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 in a two-day workshop held at Nutting House, City of Mbombela in Mpumalanga ending today.

The workshop, which was attended by human settlements practitioners, planners, policymakers and technocrats from the national, provincial and local government seeking to define the new roadmap that ought to be taken in this new sixth administration by setting out the actions that government will take and targets to be achieved. With the NDP as the umbrella for its programme of action (PoA), government seeks to speed up change and progress in the country through the new National Infrastructure Plan and Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP).

Addressing the workshop, Sokopo made an impression that in order to attain human settlements vision there must be integrated, balanced and vibrant urban settlements and that the crust of the MTSF 2019-2024 is leaned towards four pillars designed to catalyse delivery of human settlements. She explained that the department will focus on liveable neighbourhoods with social amenities, different land uses and security of tenure.

“Access to adequate housing for all that presents different preferences and functional residential property market will be prioritized and this requires accelerated issuing of title deeds and proper facilitation of rapid access to located land for human settlements,” she added. The sector has identified seven priorities as key in not only transforming human settlements but the lives of the ordinary people in the period of 2019-2024.

Sokopo outlined these priorities saying that the Department must focus more on area-based interventions and putting more emphasis on upgrading of Informal settlements: “We must provide housing opportunities in an integrated manner, while investing more in public spaces to achieve place making. We must use finance and funding model for human settlements for targeted realization of human settlement outcomes,” she highlighted.

More emphasis was given on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of spatial issues such like liveable environments and addressing institutional capacity by supporting municipalities by increasing stakeholder participation and intergovernmental coordination. In his input Mr Doctor Nkosi, Provincial Chief Director for Integrated human settlement planning and policy coordination, emphasized the importance of working together with other sector departments. 'As the Department we have been doing well in terms of integrated planning. We have managed to involve and work with other sector departments, we must continue in this path", he said.

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