



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC MAHLANGU OBSERVES WORLD HABITAT MONTH

The Department of Human Settlements in Mpumalanga remains committed to its strategic objective to contain the phenomenon of urban sprawl in economic active areas through the introduction of an Urban Development Boundary/Urban Edge which will contribute towards the development of more compact towns. This will be through processes of infill development and densification especially around economic activity nodes and along public transport corridors. This assertion was reiterated MEC Norah Mahlangu as the world observes the annual World Habitat Month.

The remark takes place this year under the theme "*Housing For All: A Better Urban Future*". Reflecting on the theme, MEC Mahlangu stated that the theme would not be more relevant to South African and Mpumalanga province in particular as the Department strives for liveable neighbourhoods closer to opportunities. "We have a historic mission that can be traced back in 1955 with the adoption of the Freedom Charter which proclaims that there shall be houses, security and comfort for all, thus the theme resonates with our aspirations and mission to have all Mpumalanga residents housed", indicated Mahlangu.

She also called upon all stakeholders to play a part and use of such programmes to make a meaningful contribution to better housing the needy. "Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns and how our people can benefit from these urban changes", pleaded Mahlangu.

Mahlangu further stated that as part the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024 (MTSF), the Department has committed to work closely with the private sector to develop major development projects that brings together economic nodes, human settlements, smart technologies and public transportation that impact on spatial transformation. Moreover the Department has vowed to transform the property market to promote access to urban opportunity and social integration through access to well-located, affordable housing and decent shelter, thereby reversing urban fragmentation and highly inefficient sprawl.

Giving effect to this, the Department has planned several integrated projects as announced by MEC Mahlangu during the 2020/21 budget vote presentation. They include amongst others, Umjindi Extension 17, Nkosi City, Matsafeni Precinct, Dingwell, Casa da Lua, Maggiesdal, Colts Hill, White River Ext 71, Mashishing Ext. 6, Ext. 8, Ext 9 and Ext. 10 and Sabie Ext 10, Komatipoort Ext 18, KaMhlushwa A Ext 3, Mjejane, SEZ Smart City, Kinross Ext 33 and Ext 34, Kempville Ext 2, KwaZamokuhle Ext 9, Rondebodch, Naauwpoort, Phola/Iraq to mention but a few in various municipalities throughout the province.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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