



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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GOVERNMENT OBSERVES UN-HABITAT MONTH

The broadened mandate to deliver integrated sustainable human settlements appeals directly to the objectives of the global body - United Nation's Habitat Programme for a better urban future. This is Mpumalanga's Human Settlements, MEC Speed Mashilo's assertion as the world continues to observe World Habitat Month under the theme "**Mind the Gap, Leave No One and Place Behind**". It looks at the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements. The message also seeks to draw attention to the growing disparities and vulnerabilities exacerbated by the triple 'C' crises (COVID-19, climate and conflict).

It is common cause that urbanisation brings both opportunities and challenges in the facets of demographics, environment, economy and society. Mashilo has acknowledged this reality and that South Africa is not immune. "The realities of the world regarding urbanisation are not peculiar to our country and province. We continue to witness the mushrooming of informal settlements in our urban areas and cities", charged Mashilo. He added that random urbanisation has undue pressure on city infrastructure, which now requires upgrading or expansion.

In dealing with some of these challenges of informal settlements, the Provincial Department currently finalising **40** upgrading plans for the 2022/23 financial year. The upgrading plans are linked to Municipal Spatial Development Frameworks, as informal settlements are primarily located within the urban edge and on land identified for future residential development.

Urban October was developed to raise awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge and engage the international community in creating a better urban future. The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 – "**to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**" – identifies sustainable urbanisation as one of the critical priorities for global development. The adoption of the new Urban Agenda by the United Nations in 2016 has seen national and local governments worldwide embark on a transformative path towards making SDG11 a reality. Minister Mammoloko Kubayi is currently hosting the UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms Maimunah Mohad Sharif for the official visit to South Africa. The visit is part of launching the Global Action Plan of informal settlements and slums.

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