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## TAKING STOCK OF THE NINE-MONTHS PERFORMANCE

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements convened its nine-month Performance Review Session yesterday, 12/12/2024 in the City of Mbombela, bringing together senior officials to assess progress, address challenges, and chart a path forward. Acting Head of Human Settlements, Ms. Hazel Zitha, presented encouraging results, reporting a non-financial performance of 87% and a financial performance of 78%, both exceeding the quarterly thresholds.

"This session marks a significant moment for the Department as we reflect on our achievements, including improved audit outcomes and the progress we've made in merging to form CoGHSTA," said Zitha. She commended the team for maintaining momentum despite challenges, emphasising that collaboration and strategic planning were key drivers of the Department's performance.

The session revealed that 4,707 housing opportunities were created over the past three quarters, including the construction of 925 units, the servicing of 3,782 sites, and the registration of 2,378 title deeds, surpassing the initial target of 1,500. These results underscore the Department's commitment to advancing sustainable human settlements and improving the lives of Mpumalanga residents.

However, challenges remain. The Department acknowledged shortfalls in bulk infrastructure projects, contractor delays, and other external factors contributing to a housing delivery shortfall of 706 units. MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Mr. Speed Mashilo, addressed these concerns, pledging decisive action to address infrastructure constraints and improve project timelines. "While we celebrate our progress, we must intensify efforts to overcome the bottlenecks that slow service delivery. Collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders remains critical as we work to meet our year-end targets," stated Mashilo.

This session reinforced the Department's dedication to transparency, accountability, and the provision of quality housing opportunities for all. By addressing challenges and leveraging its achievements, the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements continues to play a pivotal role in building sustainable, inclusive communities across the province. The ongoing merger to form CoGHSTA was also highlighted as a key step toward more streamlined service delivery.

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