

ADDRESS BY MPUMALANGA HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEC, HON. VS
SIWELA DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING AND HAND OVER OF
ENTOKOZWENI COMMUNITY HALL, SIYATHUTHUKA EXT 3,
EMAKHAZENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
11TH JUNE 2015

Programme Director: Clr M.U Hadebe
Executive Mayor: Clr X.S Ngwenya (Emakhazeni Local Municipality)
Executive Mayor: Clr T.D Ngwenya (Nkangala District Municipality)
Executive Mayors Present
Members of the Legislature
Members of the Executive Council
Councillors
Head of Department
Acting Municipal Manager
Social Cluster Members
Business Representative
Private Institutions
Officials from the Department and Municipality
Members of the Media
Distinguished Community Members

Introduction

The year 2009 marked the demise of the Department of Housing and ushered in the Department of Human Settlements with a broadened mandate.

These developments brought about a shift into the manner in which services, especially houses have been delivered.

It created a new approach of delivering services in an integrated and sustainable manner.

The broadened mandate and alignment requires the department to create integrated and sustainable human settlements.

It is also about transforming cities and towns into cohesive, sustainable and caring communities with easy access to work and social amenities, including sports and recreation facilities.

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The Department is no longer just implementing houses, but plays a larger role to coordinate, facilitate and support the provision of all the elements and aspects that constitute a sustainable human settlement.

Department's Mandate

Section 26 of the South African Constitution emphasizes the centrality of the Department's role in coordinating the development of sustainable integrated human settlements.

As such, it is well positioned to facilitate coordinated planning towards the realisation of progressive development

Despite such clear articulation by the Constitution, the human settlements sector in the country remains challenged in both the social and economic environment.

This mirrors worldwide trends as population explosions continue to create an increasing demand within the property market for well-located land and housing.

The mission of the Department is therefore to facilitate the creation of sustainable human settlement and improve the quality of household life.

Its functions are to determine, finance, promote, communicate and monitor the implementation of housing and sanitation programmes.

To this end, the Department has a responsibility of delivering even beyond the normal houses being constructed in the country, but economic and social amenities such as community halls, day care centres, servicing of sites, title deeds, rental accommodation, etc.

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Sustainable human settlements

Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life are defined by:

- Access to adequate accommodation that is suitable, relevant, appropriately located, affordable and fiscally sustainable
- Access to basic services such as water, sanitation, refuse removal and electricity
 - Security of tenure irrespective of ownership or rental, formal or informal structures
- Access to social services and economic opportunities within reasonable distance.

In May 2012, government unveiled a plan that it expects will turn the country's major cities into sustainable economic hubs.

The new approach requires the Department to create an enabling environment where people can learn, play, pray, and goes to work.

Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP)

At the beginning of the 2014/15 Financial Year we handed over high quality low-income houses and a day care centre across the street in this township.

The former was made possible through the Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRRDP) which provides for the acquisition of land; servicing of stands for a variety of land uses, including commercial, recreational, schools and clinics; as well as residential stands for low-, middle- and high income groups.

The land-use and income group mix is based on local planning and needs assessment. The IRDP can be undertaken in several phases or in one single phase.

Programme Director, I must mention the incidents of illegal occupation of such houses by non-owners is against the law.

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So we call upon those who are engaging in such activities to stay away from such. Anyone who is aggrieved or has concerns has a right to process such through the right channels. This country is not governed by lawlessness.

Entokozweni Community Hall

The project handed over today will surely improve and benefit the lives of this municipality in a sense that it talks to our vision of integrating society and fostering social cohesion.

The Department has spent nearly **R 10 million** on the delivery of both the community hall and the day care centre across the street.

The Social and Economic Amenity Programme is aimed at assisting municipalities to construct social amenities that can be utilised by their citizens in close proximity to their communities.

These achievements play an important role in social cohesion and are one of the requirements in the development of integrated human settlements.

The Emakhazeni Project was approved for implementation in the 2013/14 Financial Year and it was completed in the first quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

The project comprised of a Child Care Centre and a Community Hall as part of the BNG project in the same area.

Besides the delivery of the hall adds to the housing units and serviced sites valued at over **R26 million** which were delivered last year.

The infrastructure installation to the project started in the 2013/14 financial year and over **300** sites completed. The entire project consists of 321 units and is in response to the new embrace of integrated approach.

Ngiyabonga.