



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

Press Release
05 August 2024

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING TO UNLOCK HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT

Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr. Speed Mashilo, emphasized the importance of collaborative and coherent planning as he presented a R1.4 billion Policy and Budget Speech at Riverside in the City of Mbombela today. The recent merger of CoGHSTA and the strategic alignment with the District Development Model (DDM) will enable the government to address bulk infrastructure challenges that continue to impact human settlements delivery.

Over the next eighteen months, the Department will prioritize area-based planning and increased collaboration with Amakhosi and the private sector to achieve integrated development. Mashilo highlighted the current implementation of 16 mega human settlement projects, which have the potential to yield 54,884 sites, forming the basis for rapid land release for self-built and low-cost housing. These projects are underway in Steve Tshwete, Msukaligwa, Govan Mbeki, Dipaliseng, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Mkhondo, Chief Albert Luthuli, eMalahleni, and City of Mbombela Municipalities.

The Department plans to service **4,599 sites**, including upgrading informal settlements and developing new integrated human settlements across the province. Acknowledging the challenges faced by municipalities, Mashilo announced, "The department will continue assisting municipalities with supplementing bulk link infrastructure by embarking on the sewer infrastructure that links the new Ermelo Extension 45 with the wastewater treatment works in Msukaligwa Local Municipality." An allocation of R25 million has been set aside for this purpose.

Despite the optimism, Mashilo acknowledged the economic challenges affecting the delivery of affordable low-cost housing. Issues such as slow contractor performance, inflation of building materials, and sluggish economic growth were highlighted as barriers to delivering low-cost housing. Nonetheless, the Department plans to deliver **2,342 housing units**, refurbish **261** mud houses, and remove **701** asbestos roofs in the 2024/25 financial year. An assessment revealed that over 20,000 units in the province are roofed with asbestos, with this year's focus on Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr. JS Moroka, and Dipaleseng Local Municipalities.

Among the key priorities, is registering and issuing of **4 934-title** deeds to rightful beneficiaries, supporting the government's programme to restore dignity to the previously disadvantaged by providing secure tenure and promoting property ownership. Furthermore, 220 Community Residential Units (CRUs) for rental stock will be constructed, alongside five socio-economic facilities, including community halls and childcare centres. Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr Daniel Nkosi, supported the budget allocation stating that it will go a long way to develop communities.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ flngobe@mpg.gov.za

