



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MUNIMEC CONSIDERS PROPOSED RAPID LAND RELEASE PROGRAMME

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements, under the tutelage of MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr. Speed Mashilo, today engaged in an extensive review of the proposed Rapid Land Release Programme (RLRP) during a MUNIMEC meeting in Middelburg, Nkangala. The programme aims to tackle the housing backlog in the province by systematically delivering serviced residential stands to qualifying beneficiaries.

The proposed RLRP seeks to provide affordable land for housing, with a particular focus on low-to middle-income households. As part of the plan, stands will be allocated within integrated human settlement projects, giving citizens the opportunity to build their homes. The programme is also aligned with the newly improved First Home Finance programme, which assists first-time homebuyers secure finance for homeownership.

Outlining the key objectives of the programme, MEC Speed Mashilo stated: “The systemic delivery of serviced stands is essential to ensure that all qualifying South Africans, particularly those in the subsidized and gap market, have access to land for self-built homes. This programme prioritizes those earning between R3, 500 and R22, 000 per month, while also addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and youth-headed households. By working closely with local municipalities and traditional councils, we aim to foster inclusive development that benefits all communities, especially in tribal areas,” expounded Mashilo.

During the meeting, MUNIMEC considered the challenges related to land availability and infrastructure development, as well as the programme’s potential to fast-track the release of land for housing across Mpumalanga. The proposed RLRP is expected to play a crucial role in alleviating the province’s current housing backlog, which affects over 300,000 individuals. Commenting on the proposal, Nkangala District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya was optimistic that the policy will yield positive results. He also called on municipalities to meaningfully participate on the process to ensure speedy approval thereof.

MUNIMEC will continue to consult with key stakeholders, including traditional leaders, to ensure that the programme’s rollout is inclusive and effective. The next steps will involve further engagements with local municipalities and development partners to refine the implementation strategies. Ultimately, the Executive Council will have to approve the proposed programme. MUNIMEC is a coordinating forum convened by MEC and attended by Executive Mayors and Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) responsible for human settlement, planning and development in municipalities.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
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