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# MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

## PROGRESS REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ADDRESS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS RELATED CHALLENGES TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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# PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the **National Council of Provinces [NCOP]** with an update on measures put in place by the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements to address challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic under the following areas:

- a) Integrated approach
- b) Construction of low-cost houses
- c) Provision of basic services and bulk infrastructure upgrade

# INTEGRATED APPROACH

## Identification and location of high-risk areas

The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements embarked upon the assessment and validation of high-risk areas in the Province (mainly informal settlements). A summary is provided below.

District Municipality	Number of Informal Settlements	Number of household
Gert Sibande	28	21 217
Nkangala	64	37 993
Ehlanzeni	85	35 265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>94 475</b>

A detailed assessment was conducted to ascertain provision and access to the following basic services in these informal settlements:-

- Water
- Sanitation
- Refuse removal

# CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-COST HOUSES

## 1. Re-opening of Construction Activities

Following the easing of the National Lockdown, the Department re-opened all construction activities under lockdown level-3 with strict adherence to covid-19 health and safety regulations.

Priority was given to the following:-

- a) Houses at advanced stages of completion i.e. wall plate, roof and finishing levels
- b) Informal settlement upgrade projects; and
- c) Emergency housing projects.

## 2. Upgrading of Informal Settlements

In order to ensure adequate shelter informal settlements, a total of **1 882 housing units** have been prioritized for completion in the 2020/21 financial year.

It should be reported that no informal settlement required de-densification and or relocation to Temporary Residential Areas in the Province.

# PROVISION OF BULK INFRASTRUCTURE

## Temporary water provision

- ❑ The Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements has been working together with the local municipalities and the Provincial Department of Water and Sanitation for the verification of the installation of JoJo tanks across the identified settlements that were then supplied by Rand Water tankers.

## Bulk Infrastructure

- ❑ Bulk infrastructure projects primarily dealing with the eradication of sewer spillages have been restarted after level 3 lockdown.

## Internal Services

- ❑ All projects planned for the servicing of sites and the upgrading of services in informal settlements have been restarted.

# MASS SANITIZATION AND DISINFECTION

- ❑ The Department of Human Settlements has since developed a **Provincial Mass Sanitization and Disinfection Plan** in terms of which the Department shall provide technical support to Municipalities in the mass disinfection of the identified informal settlements in the Province.

# RECOMMENDATION

It is herewith recommended that:

- ✓ The **National Council of Provinces [NCOP]** notes the progress made on measures put in place by the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements to address challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic, and provide guidance where deemed necessary; and
- ✓ The **National Council of Provinces [NCOP]** notes that the unavailability of bulk municipal engineering services infrastructure in most municipalities remains a serious challenge in the provision of the much needed basic services.





THANK YOU

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HI NKHENSILE

SIYATHOKOZA

SIYABONGA