



Upscaling Alternative and Transformative Technologies

“Building Smart Communities”



Introductory Remarks

1. There has been a tendency to limit alternative technology application in the subsidised sector to only the construction of the house.
2. This appears to be fueled by the perception that poor households and the state are not receptive to innovation and use of smart technologies to improve the lives of poor households – Nothing could be further from the truth – We need to recognise that as a country we have developed and implemented a number innovations related to housing and human settlements.
3. It is important that we recognise that innovation must form part of radical social transformation as articulated by the Minister and supported by the Portfolio Committee to improve the lives of all South Africans.

Introductory Remarks

4. We must also guard against limiting innovation and transformation to only those aspects which mitigate against the effects of climate change.
5. In fact the brunt and impact of climate change to a large extent is borne by poor households and this includes fires, flooding and other extreme weather outcomes.
6. It is important that we agree on a alignment of policy with planning, funding and implementation. In doing so it must be a holistic and all encompassing implementation that covers alternative and transformative technology across the human settlements and housing delivery chain.

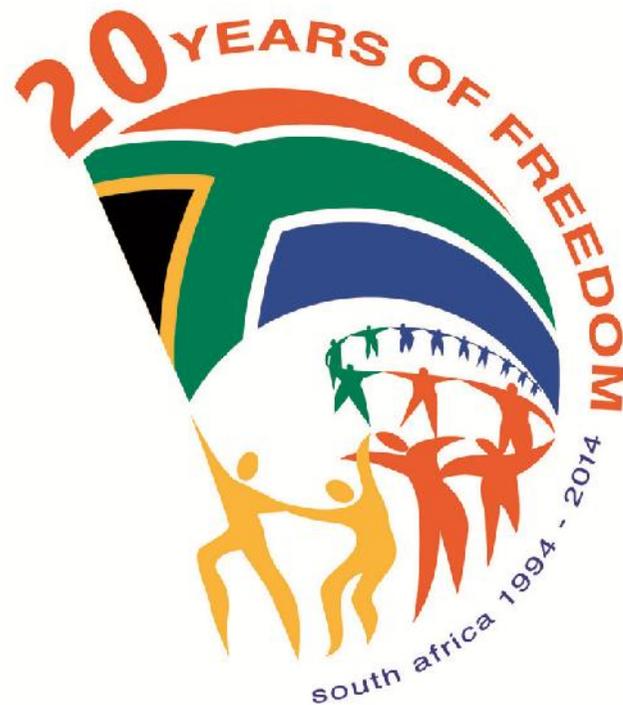
Introductory Remarks

7. There is clearly a need to ensure that we move not only from what we are comfortable with but more importantly undertake an interactive approach which allows a space for transformation and innovation with communities and project managers.
8. A good example where we have failed to transform and innovate is especially in informal settlements upgrading – we focus on the process rather than the outcome of a sustainable household within an integrated settlement – we work within the framework of that which we know – How much innovation has taken place within regards to innovating and transforming household livelihoods and sustainability.

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9. There is a need to link innovation and transformation with the reality of scarce resources as well as improving cost efficiency, as well as measures that improves the ability of us as a country to meet our communities needs and aspirations.
10. It is important to reiterate the fact that transformation and innovation is not about the product or the process but the impact of the outcome on the livelihoods of households





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