



## **human settlements**

Department:  
Human Settlements  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPUTY MINISTER ZOU KOTA FREDERICKS**

**SPEECH**

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SUMMIT – EKURHULENI**

**Programme Director this summit is about going back to basics.**

**Mayor of Ekurhuleni Hon. Mondi Gugwela in his absence**

**Members of the Mayoral Committee, Mama Dube & Mshudulu**

**All councilors present**

**CWDS**

**Leadership of political parties present**

**All invited guests**

**All officials present here today.**

**Comrades, ladies and gentlemen I greet you all this afternoon.**

**Phambili Ngezindlu phambili**

**Viva Ekurhuleni Viva**

I feel honoured to be invited to share a few words with you this afternoon at this important Human Settlements summit.

As the Department of Human Settlements we derive our mandate from the chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa guided by the Housing Act (no.107 of 1997) and other related legislation.

In the delivery of houses we work together as three spheres of government namely National, Province and Municipalities which is our local government.

The mandate of this administration has been clearly stated in the ANC manifesto and also articulated in the state of the nation address (SONA) as well as in our budget vote speeches in parliament. This is also stated in our 2014 and 2018 MSTF.

I am very happy that this summit also includes ward councilors and the people from various communities. This indicates very clearly that Ekurhuleni metro is serious about the “Batho Pele” principles, an approach that takes the concerns of our communities seriously. The people centered approach is vital to successful service delivery.

It is important that the municipality deliver on its mandate in your allocation of HSDG and USDG.

We are aware that you want to do more and you are aware where the process is so far.

Chairpersons allow me to raise two issues which are critical to us as a department:

1. It is the criterion that is used to allocate people into houses that we need to look at closely. We urge the municipalities to please prioritize the elderly, ill and people with disabilities. We cannot allocate a house to a 21 year old while you have an elderly person of 80 year’s old living in a shack.

Ladies and gentlemen I am aware that the estimated housing backlog in this city is at 144 000 housing units and the approach of delivery of one house per stand is a huge challenge.

You have to begin to densify going forward.

The area has lots of challenges around the land suitability for housing given its history.

It has dolomatic land and mine water, mine dumps etc. It does need special attention as part of revitalizing distress mining areas.

It is also important that we promote the building of houses using alternative technology.

Houses can no longer be built with brick and mortar only. Our housing backlog needs a multi prong approach to create housing opportunities.

We refer to the upgrading of informal settlements namely provision of water, sanitation, or electricity. This including the relocation of people from unsuitable land to well located land.

2. Secondly the subsidy programme for those earning between 0 – R3500. As well as houses for rental stock built through social housing institution for the category between R3501 – R7500.

As well as the FLISP – financial linked individual subsidy programme for people earning less than R15000.00. this programme is administered by NHFC.

It is the duty of the municipality to also take care of its military veterans and work with national and provincial departments to implement this programme. This is in line with the 5 values of the municipality.

This goes to show that as government we are committed to an approach that supports the participatory democracy.

As our communities are at the centre of development, consultation is an integral part of Integrated Development Plan (IDP's) and you are here to seek ways of implementing those issues raised during the IDP process.

You are here today to strategize about key priorities of this municipality. As the Department of Human Settlements we are committed to the delivery of 1, 5 million housing opportunities.

We are anxiously waiting for the contribution which will be made here today by this smart, creative and developmental city in this regard.

Mayor the issue of sustainable livelihood cannot be postponed.

We must collaborate with other departments for job creation, opportunities such as EPWP and CWP. This including dept of small business enterprise. Ekurhuleni has the highest rate of unemployment in Gauteng. Even the upgrading of informal settlements can involve communities and come up with job opportunities.

Ekurhuleni must subscribe to Breaking New Ground in the building of houses.

By building them closer to the places of work, as we say, where we work should be where we stay, pray and play.

In every settlement there must be social amenities such as parks, crèches, roads, clinics and schools. When we build homes we must strive to build communities. Ward committees must be utilized to discuss also the housing issues so that housing delivery can be transparent and allow space for community engagement.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of October we will be holding Human Settlements New Technology summit here in Gauteng, where Integrated Human Settlements will be discussed and showcased.

Programme Director today we have a delegation which is led by the Director General of Human Settlements Mr. Thabane Zulu in New York at the United Nations preparatory meeting for UN Habitat.

This is held to discuss a report of how far we have gone and come as South Africa in provision of shelter for our people. We are doing so as we are marking 20 years of our democracy. We do so being convinced that we have made strides in this arena.

As we have so far delivered 3.7 million houses benefitting 12 million people.

We know that we still have housing backlog of more than 2 million but we will continue providing homes for our people.

Delivery of houses is not only about the product itself but about communities coming together building better communities through private, public partnership and taking our South Africa forward.

I thank you.