



MINISTRY

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

THEMBI SIMELANE, MP

MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE LAUNCH OF THE REAL ESTATE LEARNERSHIP PROGRAMME BY
PROPERTY PRACTITIONERS' REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

2 SEPTEMBER 2026

HELD AT SYDNEY CHOMA BANQUET HALL, MIDDELBURG

Programme Director,

Premier of Mpumalanga; Mandla Ndlovu

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport; Thulasizwe Thomo

PPRA Board Chairperson, Ms. Queendy Gungubele

PPRA Board members

Executive Mayors;

Directors-General of DHS and MPG;

PPRA Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Thato Ramaili

Chief Executive Officer of the Services SETA; Sibusiso Dhladhla

Industry leaders;

Learners in the Real Estate;

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good day,

Thank you so much for welcoming us in this beautiful province of the rising sun. The Mpumalanga province is famous for its diverse flora and fauna, and exceptional biodiversity. **The province contributes significantly to our dynamic tourism sector; it is therefore a befitting tribute that our gathering takes place at the beginning of September as our national tourism month.**

This gathering also takes place just few days after we have emerged from a successful women's month program wherein as the department and the sector, we delivered wide range of activities and events aimed at deepening and advancing the struggle for women emancipation, gender equality and economic transformation as part of the 70th anniversary of the historic women's march of 1956.

We have gathered here today as government to launch an important programme in the real estate sector in a collaborative effort to empower our youth through real estate transformation.

Transformation is not simply about changing who occupies positions in the property sector. It is about changing who has access to the opportunities that create those positions in the first place.

We do not only speak about youth and women empowerment during the youth and women's month. As government we have made it our business to treat this as an ongoing commitment of creating an enabling conducive environment for the youth, women, and people with disabilities to thrive and unleash their talent.

Collaboratively, we are today launching a real estate programme, the programme seeks to support inclusive economic participation, and transformation within the real estate sector through skills development and employment creation and equip participants with the knowledge, skills and competencies required to operate effectively within the sector.

It is important to note that the programme will also play an important role in contributing to closing critical skills gaps by developing a pipeline of competent and work-ready property practitioners and enhancing their competitiveness in the job market and developing a pipeline of competent and work-ready property practitioners.

Programme Director,

It is no secret that the property industry remains largely in the hands of the minority few, this program among others will add impetus to democratic government objective of meaningful economic transformation and redress.

As said, the programme is a collaborative initiative by different public and private sector institutions such as the Mpumalanga Public Works, Roads and Transport, Services SETA, and Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority (PPRA), an entity of the Department of Human Settlements.

In his 2026 State of the Province Address (SOPA), Premier Mandla Ndlovu made an indication that “We cannot speak of growth without addressing unemployment. Our youth must be at the forefront of our economic initiatives. Through vocational training and mentorship programs, we aim to equip them with the skills necessary for today’s job market.”

This launch reinforces the Premier's well captured statement. It is another testament that government working together can confront the scourge of the alarming youth unemployment with a collective agency.

Programme Director,

Mpumalanga is the second province we are rolling out this programme, in march this year, we were in KwaZulu Natal and we envisage to massify the programme throughout the country.

Notably, this initiative represents far more than the conferral of certificates and acknowledgement of participation. It represents opportunity, transformation, and participation in an economy that shapes how South Africans live, work and build wealth.

We will effectively use the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered between the PPRA, Mpumalanga Provincial Government and Services SETA to fundamentally transform the real property sector.

The real estate sector represents billions in economic value, yet it remains inaccessible. It is an industry predominantly controlled by a minority few, and it is through programmes like this, with our entity PPRA at the centre working together with its partners that we will make a significant impact in transforming the industry.

The property sector is one of the most important components of the South African economy, but meaningful transformation cannot happen if young people—particularly young people from historically disadvantaged communities—remain outside the industry's economic opportunities.

Programme Director,

The **One Learner – One Property Practitioner Programme** is therefore an important intervention because it takes young people beyond theoretical learning and gives them exposure to the actual workplace.

It is important to note that the PPRA is not only responsible for regulating property practitioners. It is also a key driver of transformation, professionalisation and ethical standards within the property sector.

We are therefore undertaking this initiative to address and undermine the disproportionate underrepresentation of black practitioners in the South African property sector.

The programme seeks to illuminate the government's commitment to create strategic pathways to provide skills as earlier indicated, employment, especially for the youth, women and people with disabilities.

We will work with the province to create a conducive environment for new black-estate estate agents to enter the market and access the opportunities that have been for the few and drive profound economic development pathways.

Working together, we will ensure that our graduates are not neglected post-training. The PPRA will provide a post-training and SMME support

underpinned by structural and business incubation support to help emerging black and youth-owned property enterprises to become successful and sustainable. This is line with one of the core pillars and objectives of the PPRA right from its inception, that of facilitating sector transformation to drive transformation and ensure reflection of the country's demographics.

Through the PPRA, the top-performing exited learners will undertake the Professional Designated Examination (PDE 5) transition from candidate practitioners to full Principal Estate Agents.

I must indicate that the NQF Level 4 qualification in real estate is nationally recognised, and graduates can pursue careers in alternative property sectors like property administration, bond origination, real estate valuation and many others.

Programme Director,

As I conclude, I wish to point out that, the programme represents a deliberate effort to open those doors.

Young people should not only be viewed as beneficiaries of government programmes. They must be viewed as future professionals, entrepreneurs, employers, and leaders of the property sector.

We re-emphasise the importance of meaningful transformation and economic empowerment because it is the centre of our constitutional promise of social justice, equality and egalitarian society that our forebears fought for.

I wish you all the best as you enter this complex environment. Together we will give the sector a more humane face.

I thank you.