



## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND ICT

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

**To : All Editors and Journalists**

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#### ***Human Settlements department committed to deliver on its housing mandate***

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Gaoage Oageng Molapisi has affirmed that his department will make sure it delivers on its Constitutional mandate of providing citizens with sustainable, integrated human settlements and ensuring effective service delivery of public infrastructure, which is crucial for economic growth and social justice.

Speaking recently during the National Council of Provinces' visit in the North West Province, MEC Molapisi acknowledged that the department is currently faced with many challenges hindering its housing mandate, this includes housing backlog, stalled projects, issues with bulk infrastructure capacity in municipalities and poor workmanship by some contractors.

He said the department is driving a focused approach to deliver houses for vulnerable communities. According to Molapisi, the department has identified project preparation and oversight as key areas of focus. "As a department, we have initiated several strategies to improve performance and ensure effective delivery of sustainable human settlements. For the current financial year, we are utilising 80% of the budget to unblocking stalled housing projects across the province. Only 20% is used for new projects".

MEC Molapisi highlighted that the upgrading of informal settlements is also an important area which is also getting attention. He said the department is working closely with municipalities to address this matter, which includes access to water, sanitation and electricity.

"Our approach is respect to local and district municipalities as another sphere of government. We are collaborating with municipalities and not taking the big brother posture. It is municipalities that at their own council decide to agree on our interventions towards achieving service delivery", said MEC Molapisi.

MEC Molapisi reiterated institutionalising the District Development Model (DDM) by effectively taking part in Intergovernmental Relations forums, which include our MUNIMEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), and Human Settlements respectively. “Through the interventions aligned to Section 154 of the Constitution, we are going to support and strengthen the capacity of our municipalities so they can be able to manage their affairs, exercise their powers, and perform their functions effectively”.

Lastly, the MEC emphasised partnership with the Provincial Treasury and South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and the continued close working relationship with the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders to discuss issues affecting their communities.

**Ends#**

**Issued by the Department of Human Settlements (North West)**

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