

eTSHUMELO

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GAUTENG PROVINCE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GGT2030
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

Foreword by MEC Tasneem Motara

As part of my first 100 days in office, I have embarked on an extensive program of activities, including visits to all regions, engaging with staff at our regional offices, and inspecting various human settlements projects. These visits have provided invaluable insights into the challenges and successes of our Department's work on the ground. I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment of our teams, as well as the positive impact of our efforts on the lives of the people we serve. From handing over title deeds and houses to families to addressing the concerns of community members in Bekkersdal and beyond, these interactions have reinforced my commitment to delivering on our mandate.

Reflecting on this initial period, I am reminded of the immense responsibility and privilege of serving the people of Gauteng. These first few months have been characterized by intense activity, strategic planning, and the laying of a strong foundation for the work that lies ahead. It has been a period of deep learning, engagement, and partnership-building that will drive our collective mission to provide dignified and sustainable human settlements.

During my inaugural address, I committed to tackling the housing backlog and improving service delivery across all regions. Since then, we have engaged with numerous stakeholders, including municipalities and government entities, to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to the challenges we face. I am also proud of our consultations and engagements with izinduna in the inner city, as they

are critical stakeholders in implementing our Hostels Redevelopment Strategy. The plan is to ultimately transform these hostels into dignified family units.

A significant highlight of this period was the Women in Construction Breakfast, where we celebrated the resilience and innovation of women in the construction sector. This event was a powerful reminder that gender diversity is not just a goal but a necessary ingredient for transforming the human settlements landscape.

I encouraged the women in attendance to seize the opportunities available in the sector and to be unapologetic in their pursuit of larger and more ambitious projects. It is my firm belief that the inclusion of women in mega projects and entrepreneurial development is key to unlocking the full potential of our economy.

We have also taken bold steps in our plans to rehabilitate and repurpose old, abandoned, and invaded buildings in our inner cities. These structures, once symbols of decay, will be transformed into spaces that provide much-needed housing for our people. This initiative is part of our broader vision to revitalize urban areas and create sustainable, inclusive communities. In my maiden Budget Vote Speech, I outlined the Department's bold vision to transform the human settlements landscape in Gauteng. Our focus is not only on delivering housing but also on building inclusive, equitable communities that uplift the most vulnerable among us. The allocation of a substantial budget for housing development and infrastructure projects reflects our unwavering commitment to this vision.



We are also committed to enhancing transparency and efficiency in beneficiary administration, ensuring that those in need receive the support they deserve in a timely and equitable manner.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build on the momentum of these first 100 days. The Department of Human Settlements is poised to implement several mega projects and the Ikageleng Rapid Land Release Programme, which will further accelerate housing delivery and economic growth in our province. By working closely with all stakeholders, we are confident that we will create a more inclusive and thriving human settlements sector that truly reflects the aspirations of our people.

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Summary of the Department's Budget Vote 2024-2025

Luzuko Pongoma

Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Tasneem Motara says the Department will work with municipalities to unlock bulk infrastructure backlog which is key to the delivery of houses.

Delivering the 2024- 2025 financial year budget, Motara said: "municipalities have a significant role to play in local development initiatives and spatial transformation as well as within the human settlements' delivery value chain at large, especially when one looks at title deeds issuance, beneficiary allocation and bulk infrastructure roll out. We will strengthen intergovernmental collaboration to accelerate the delivery of integrated human settlements."

She said that the Department wants to foster collaboration and alignment between the province and municipalities on the following aspects:

1. Bulk infrastructure installation: our plan is to use bulk infrastructure strategically to unlock greater levels of investment by the private sector in the five development corridors that make up Gauteng City Region.
2. Securing of government assets (land and property) through the enforcement of by-laws and execution of eviction orders.
3. Fast-tracking of township proclamation processes, which is often a bottleneck to accelerated title deeds issuance and beneficiary allocation.
4. Better alignment between Human Settlements Development Grant and Urban Settlements Development Grant spending.

Motara said that the Department's budget which is about R5 billion will also be used to revitalise CBDs and hostel redevelopment.

"The hostels redevelopment programme has been given renewed impetus with the adoption of the Hostels Redevelopment Strategy, with the aim of turning our hostels into dignified family units for beneficiaries. Work has already been done in terms of bulk infrastructure assessments across the sixty-five hostels within the province, six of which are owned by the province, with the rest being owned by municipalities," said the MEC.

On CBD revitalisation, Motara said, Central Business District (CBD) revitalisation will be one of the priorities of the Seventh Administration in Gauteng, with the province proactively coordinating CBD Revitalisation in the ten CBDs across Gauteng City Region.

"We want to increase the provision of affordable housing within our CBDs and in line with this we will be actively pursuing innovative and transformative partnerships

in order to provide affordable lending for the owners of properties in our CBDs through our social housing programme," she said.

Motara said the department will drive the effort towards the revitalisation of CBDs through the resuscitation of dilapidated buildings and infrastructure within inner cities, in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), the Department of Infrastructure Development (DID) and the various municipalities around the province in the province.

"Entities such as the Gauteng Partnership (GPF) and the Housing Development Agency (HDA) will play a critical role in the implementation of our CBD Revitalisation plans as a province, along with the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, the National Housing Finance Corporation, the Johannesburg Social Housing Company and the Johannesburg Development Agency, just to mention a few national, provincial and municipal entities that will be important stakeholders in our CBD Revitalisation Strategy implementation plans," said the MEC.

TASNEEM MOTARA

MEC: Gauteng Human Settlements

Profile



MEC Tasneem Motara is committed to making a difference in every area of her life, with a passion for women empowerment and youth development.

Early Life

Born into a family of community activists, MEC Motara cut her teeth in political activism in her late teens having joined the ANC and its Youth League, which she led from local to provincial structures, for a period spanning 17 years of her life. She concurrently led the ANC's local and provincial structures, culminating into her election to the party's Provincial Executive Committee first in 2019 and again in 2022. In 2019 she served as a member of the Working Committee and ANC provincial Spokesperson, and was elected as the Deputy Provincial Secretary in 2022.

Education

Tasneem holds a Degree in Psychology from UNISA, a Certificate in Governance and Public Leadership from WITS School of Governance and completed the University of Central London's IIPP Executive Education Programme.

Work Experience

MEC Motara has served in both the private and public sectors, and has experience in both the financial and construction industries. Her first years in the public sector were spent in 2010 where she served as the Deputy Chairperson of the NYDA Gauteng Board, a position she held for 2 years before joining Parliament in 2014. She held various positions in the National Council of Provinces, notably as a whip of the Gauteng delegation, a whip of the Select Committees on Finance and Appropriations and a permanent member of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. Following the 2019 General Elections, Tasneem was appointed as the MEC for Infrastructure Development and has been assigned the responsibility of leading the Department of Economic Development as its MEC. A hard working, self-driven, team playing individual, MEC Motara draws her strength from constantly learning and doing. A results driven individual, Tasneem has demonstrated her leadership capabilities and skills and is able to get the most productivity from any team she leads. Tasneem prides herself at being a very fast learner who adapts to any condition she operates under. She lives by the belief that there is a solution to every problem and no task is too daunting or insurmountable to be undertaken.

Other Achievements

MEC Tasneem Motara represented South Africa in two WFDY Festivals, first in 2010 and then again in 2013. She has also represented South Africa at the United Nations during her tenure as the Deputy Director for Youth in Gauteng and made presentations and input into the development of the UNSDGS. A doting mother of three, Tasneem devotes much of her free time to her husband and children. She enjoys reading, listening to music and horse riding during her leisure time.



MEC Motara hits the ground running

By Sithembiso Mkhize

Just two months into her new portfolio, MEC for Human Settlements, Tasneem Motara, has visited all five regional offices which are the West Rand, Sedibeng District Municipalities, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, and Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipalities in Gauteng.

The purpose of these visits was to unlock any bottlenecks that could delay the delivery of mega human settlements projects in the province. The MEC met with Mayors and officials of local, District and Metropolitan municipalities within Gauteng City Region in an Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) session, as well as Departmental senior managers, developers, contractors, project managers and workers to discuss improved collaboration between the two spheres of government.

In the West Rand corridor, the MEC visited three active projects which are Dan Tloome Mega, Westonaria Borwa and Toekomsrus Mega Human Settlements development projects. She also visited Lady Selbourne in Tshwane, Clayville mega project in Ekurhuleni, Obed Mthombeni Nkosi in Sedibeng and Riverside and Goudrand projects in Johannesburg.

The MEC also noted challenges faced by the Department regarding Montrose Mega Human Settlements Development project which is currently under legal review by the Department due to various issues related to poor performance by the Developer.

Two of the most successful Mega Human Settlements development projects, Dan Tloome and Clayville are alleviating housing challenges as they become the



beacon of hope in their respective municipalities, the Rand West Local Municipality and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan by providing much needed housing relief to their citizens.

These two projects are expected to yield more than 27 000 units upon completion, consisting of Breaking New Grounds (BNG/RDP) walk-ups and stand-alone houses, semi-detached houses, Military Veterans and a sports field, community hall and other facilities.

"As part of introducing myself, I had an IGR session discussion with Municipality Mayors, managers, and some officials. In those discussion we shared insights into projects under development by the Department of Human Settlements and the various municipalities"

said Motara.

Deliberations also included challenges such as funding, delivery and ability of the municipalities and the people appointed to do the work.

MEC Motara further said that "going forward we will be working very closely with municipalities, not only to unlock blocked projects and to complete unfinished projects but to also contribute to additional support to the municipalities.

MEC Motara will continue to engage municipalities during her term to perform oversight and intervene where there are challenges in Human Settlements in the Province and meet with municipalities to improve coordination.

Much ground covered by MEC in her 100 days in office

By Lebogang Malatse

In her first 100 days in office, MEC Motara has covered significant ground, leaving no stone unturned, starting with the Department's senior management and project managers.

At a meeting held at the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF), she engaged managers on the work being done and all the projects underway, to gain insight into the tasks ahead.

In these meetings, the MEC outlined her key priorities for this administration, which include:

- Eradicating the backlog of housing allocations in the province.
- Developing new strategies to address the illegal invasion of land and built structures.
- Ensuring the equitable distribution of the Department's financial resources.
- Accelerating the completion of existing housing projects and fast-tracking sod turning on new ones.
- Collaborating with other Departments to streamline service delivery to the people.
- Capacitating the Rapid Land Release teams so that more serviced stands can be made available to those in need.
- Working together with Departmental officials to create seamless and efficient delivery of human settlements in Gauteng.

The MEC noted "The people of Gauteng deserve access to adequate and affordable housing, and I am determined to address the critical challenges in this regard. I am confident that by working together, we can make significant strides in transforming the human settlements landscape in our province."

In the weeks that followed, MEC Motara criss-crossed Gauteng meeting with all the municipalities, regional offices, stakeholders and communities as well as conducting site visits to construction sites and

mega cities.

In July, the MEC visited the Clayville Mega Projects and conducted an oversight inspection at the Clayville Mega Project on the 17th of July 2024.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress made on the housing mega project.

As part of the international Nelson Mandela Day commemoration, on 18 July, the MEC donned overalls, boots and a hard hat and got her hands dirty mixing brick and mortar to build homes for vulnerable families in Orange Farm.

More needy families will benefit from the houses built in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the Industrial Development Corporation, Nedbank, Teleperformance, SA SDI Alliance and Proctor & Gamble.

This was followed by engagements with the City of Ekurhuleni and visits to the West Rand corridor and site visits to the mega projects in the area.

MEC Motara delivered her maiden Human Settlements budget vote for 2024/2025, at the Gauteng Legislature on Wednesday, 31 July 2024. The Department was allocated a Main Allocation of R5,767,478,000, with Conditional Grant Funding of R4,826,349,000.

In August the MEC handed over 10 houses and title deeds to qualifying and deserving beneficiaries in Obed Mthombeni Nkosi, Sedibeng region. She also visited the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) and conducted an oversight visit to the Goudrand and Riverside View projects to assess progress and address any



challenges.

Furthermore, MEC Motara took time to visit the victims of a burnt down house in Thinasonke, Ekurhuleni to assess the damage caused and then proceeded to the hospital to meet with others injured in the fire.

August being Women's Month, saw MEC Motara host and spend time with women involved in the construction of human settlements in the province. This also served as a platform to foster better relations in the building industry and explore ways in which the department can better support women owned businesses in the housing value chain.

As her first 100 days neared the end, in September, the MEC met with inner-city hostel leadership as part of the Department's hostel revitalisation strategy. She noted that the Department aims to turn hostels into dignified family units for beneficiaries.

"We want to redevelop our hostel precincts into integrated, quality living spaces for a wide variety of households, and we will continue with our consultations and engagements with izinduna, as critical stakeholders in the implementation of our Hostels Redevelopment Strategy," said Motara during her budget vote.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION BREAKFAST SESSION

By MaryJane Sidambe

In commemoration of Women's Day and under the theme: "Celebrating 30 years of democracy towards women's development", MEC Tasneem Motara held a Women in Construction Breakfast session at Gold Reef City, on Tuesday 26 August. The purpose of the session was to bring together experienced and emerging women in construction, and to reaffirm their role in the construction sector, and to raise awareness about the opportunities available within the construction value chain.

In addition, the session looked at challenges faced by the women in the sector and how to overcome them, and how the department can improve its delivery model to continue transforming the sector.

During her keynote address, MEC Motara expressed that she is proud to celebrate the resilience, innovation, and unwavering spirit of the women in the construction industry. "Your contributions are essential in transforming the landscape of the human settlements sector and propelling us towards a more inclusive and equitable future," said MEC Motara.

The MEC emphasised that transforming the property sector must be a gradual process, driven by both the private and public sectors. She encouraged women to be unapologetic in their pursuit of larger and more ambitious projects, highlighting the vast opportunities for women as property developers within the sector's value chain. MEC Motara stressed the importance of women's participation in mega projects, noting that

entrepreneurial development is key to unlocking these opportunities.

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements recognises that in the construction industry, money is the lifeblood of projects. Ensuring payment within 30 days is crucial for effective cash flow management. The MEC pointed out that women often miss opportunities due to a lack of a strong support system. She urged women to build that support, as it is essential for becoming strong and capable leaders. Performance, quality, and efficiency are non-negotiable in the construction industry, and women must embody these principles in their work.

The MEC further encouraged women to develop those around them, embracing the ethos of "leave no one behind." By bringing their unique qualities into their work, women can make a significant impact. MEC Motara also urged women to seize current opportunities, as they may not last indefinitely. She highlighted the critical role municipalities play in project success, calling for greater efficiency and effectiveness to ensure quick turnaround times. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector, public sector, NGOs, and regulatory bodies is essential for fully capitalising on available opportunities.

Gauteng Partnership Fund CEO, Ms. Lindiwe Kwele shared that the Gauteng Partnership Fund is led by an all-women executive team. As the GPF celebrates over 20 years of impact, Ms. Kwele highlighted the organisation's unique role in serving three key metropolitan areas.

With a firm focus on social housing the GPF has actively committed to the GPG 2030 objectives by facilitating over 120 000 housing opportunities. The GPF is deeply committed to the development of women, youth, and people with disabilities. "We don't judge your business by your balance sheet; we assess your bankable project plan and your ability to demonstrate social impact. Together, we're creating a world where opportunities know no gender, where diversity is celebrated, and where empowerment is not just a dream but a reality. Let us continue to be the change we want to see, and together we shall conquer all obstacles."

Lettie Mashau, the CEO of Motheo Construction shared that it is crucial to develop people alongside the business. When you invest in people, the business becomes more resilient. She emphasised the importance of not just building a business but also nurturing the individuals within it. She advised, "You need to protect your balance sheet through effective cash management – ensure that your cash flow is well managed, your earnings are consistently retained, and you fully understand the cash profile for each project."

The Women in Construction breakfast session was an insightful and inspiring event, bringing together women from across the property sector to share their success stories, inspire one another and outline a path forward for the sectors success. Upward and onwards to women empowerment.

Celebrating women imbokodo leaders, Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi.



Women Making Their Mark in Construction

By Sithembiso Mkhize

We pay tribute to celebrate more than 20 000 women who marched to Union Buildings on the 9th of August 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws to women. That historic protest opened doors for women of today to make their voices heard, pursue their dreams, and even enter previously male dominated industries like construction.

One of the women making strides in the construction industry is Jemina Mhlongo the founder of Jemimah Enterprises (Pty) Ltd. She shared that her love for property and desire to understand the development process led her to establish the company in 2017.

"I wanted to equip myself with both knowledge and skill of the entire development process. In 2021, I learned about Obed Mthombeni Nkosi's development project, which aimed to provide affordable housing and saw this as an opportunity for Jemimah Enterprises to contribute positively and change the community's status quo," said Mhlongo.

Mhlongo said that she was proud to say that her company has progressed from a Grade 1 CIDB rating to a Grade 5 CIDB level, and successfully completed seven walk ups (flats), which she said was due to determination, focus, and hard work.

"I thrive on providing quality through compliance and the completion of houses without compromising on quality and prescribed standards which are of great importance and pride for us at Jemimah Enterprises (Pty) Ltd," she said.

Mhlongo noted her journey in the construction business has not been without challenges, but they did not stop her progress and growth.

"Yes, throughout my journey, I have met numerous challenges, with capital being a significant one. I've learned that financial discipline is crucial and saving money after completing projects is vital. In addition, investing in tools of trade for the company has proven



to be essential, as it helps the company save money on tool rentals, but also enables us to take on more construction projects and grow our business," said Mhlongo.

"By prioritizing financial discipline and strategic investments, I have been able to navigate challenges and make progress towards my goals. These lessons have been invaluable, and I will continue to apply them as I move forward.

Jemimah Enterprises is active on the empowerment of other women in the construction industry. "We have recruited and employed women from the community where we are working to ensure that we share skills through various sub-contracting work such as bricklaying, painting, and cleaning. Over and above that, we embrace all women and provide opportunities for skills development and economic growth, we're



fostering a supportive ecosystem that benefits the community. Through this approach, we're not only advancing our business goals, but also empowering women," said Mhlongo.

Family builds own Tuscan house from a shack



By Boitumelo Thema

In Setswana, there is a saying that "Ntlo ke ya Mosadi" (a woman takes care of the household), but Anikie Banda goes above and beyond this phrase. She is a woman with determination and resilience, conquered her challenges and become victorious, ensuring her family has a roof over their heads and a house they call home.

Banda is a single parent of four boys, works as a traffic cop in the City of Tshwane. In 2022, she built herself and her children a big modern Tuscan house

with aluminium windows. The house located in Hammanskraal, consists of three bedrooms, a dining room, a sitting room, and two bathrooms with a double garage. Despite her full time job, she completed the construction in just six months.

"We were living in a shack, and I wanted my family to have a proper home, so I convinced my then 16-year-old twins and their dad to join me in building our own house," said Banda.

She noted that despite having limited financial resources, she managed to achieve her goal of owning her own house. She began the building process by

making maxi bricks using sand and cement. Banda says she bought 40 to 50 bags of cement and a truck load of sand, of which she used a ratio of three bags of sand and 1 bag of cement to make bricks.

Banda's whole family got involved in the building of the house, her father, children, and their dad. They hired one labourer, and all worked together, mixing mortar, making bricks and layering, plastering, the whole process. In addition, they extended her parents RDP house, making it more spacious for them.

Banda revealed that she learnt how to build when she joined her father as a labourer to build the Mabula Game Lodge in Limpopo. She couldn't continue with her studies due to lack of funds and decided to learn on the job on at the construction site.

"My father is a builder who has subcontracted in various projects and it was in this environment that he fostered his passion for construction and acquired valuable experience," said Banda.

Watch the video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhFMQVff7AE>



MEC Motara Hands Over Houses in Obed "Mthombeni" Nkosi Mega Project

By Gift Sebastian Langa

More than five families of elderly and indigent women were allocated houses within a few weeks of MEC Tasneem Motara taking the reins at the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements.

MEC Motara handed over five newly completed houses to beneficiaries at the Obed "Mthombeni" Nkosi Mega Project in the Sedibeng Corridor. This landmark project features a mixed-use residential development with both standalone RDP houses and walk-up residential units.

The Obed "Mthombeni" Nkosi Mega Project is part of the broader Sedibeng Corridor development, which aims to provide quality housing and integrated human settlements for residents in the region. MEC Motara noted that the project has already allocated 4,977 housing units to qualifying beneficiaries, marking significant progress in delivering much-needed accommodation.

"It has been a long process to get to this point, but I am extremely pleased with the progress we are making in the Sedibeng Corridor," said MEC Motara. "The mixed-use nature of this development, combining freestanding RDP homes and multi-storey residential units, demonstrates our commitment to providing a diverse range of housing options that cater to the varied needs of our community."

The handover ceremony was preceded by a bilateral meeting between MEC Motara and all the municipal Mayors and MMCs responsible for Human Settlements in the Sedibeng region. This collaborative approach ensures that the Sedibeng Corridor project is implemented in a coordinated manner, leveraging the resources and expertise of all stakeholders.

"By working together with our municipal partners, we are able to deliver quality, affordable housing solutions that improve the lives of our residents,"

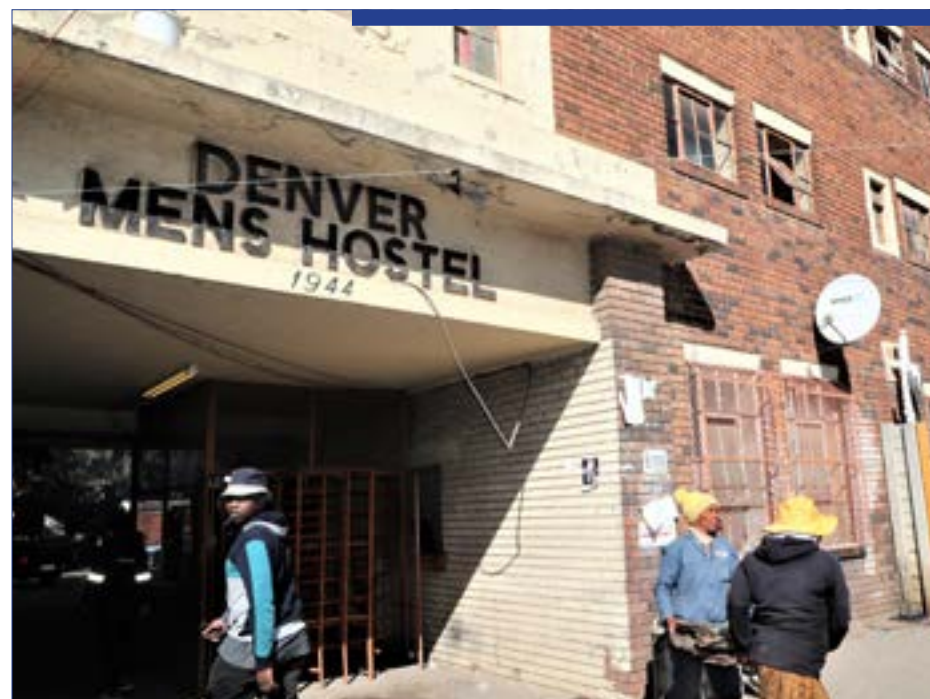


added MEC Motara. "I am confident that the Obed 'Mthombeni' Nkosi Mega Project, and the broader Sedibeng Corridor development, will continue to make a significant impact in addressing the housing needs of our communities."



The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements remains committed to driving the development of integrated, sustainable human settlements that provide access to economic opportunities, social amenities, and an improved quality of life for all residents.

Alternative energy to be introduced in hostels



By Luzuko Pongoma

Alternative energy will be introduced in hostels as part of ensuring lower service rates for the residents.

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements owns six hostels in the Johannesburg inner city which are Denver, George Goch, Jeppe, its LTA Rethabile, Murray and Roberts.

MEC for Human Settlements, Tasneem Motara along with the Department's leadership and hostel leadership visited the hostels to inspect the repair and refurbishment work that is being undertaken.

The repair work includes upgrading sewer and water systems, and refurbishing internal rooms of the hostel by repainting, re-tiling and fix the bathrooms and toilets. The inspection was followed by a meeting with the hostel leadership to address issues related to the Department's Hostel Redevelopment Programme.

Motara said that the Department was currently busy with ongoing repairs in the hostels as part of improving the living conditions of residents. In addition, there are also plans to install alternative energy in the hostels which will take about 18 months.

"The provincial government took a decision to address the challenge of electricity by installing

alternative energy. The plan also includes installation of solar power in buildings owned by the Government. The installation of solar power in Hostel is part of that process," she said.

Motara noted that hostels have common cooking areas, and some have communal baths and showers and boiler rooms that heat up the water connecting them to alternative energy will go a long to relieve pressure on the grid.

She pointed out that the biggest challenges with hostels are overcrowding and the fact that they are old and have reached end their life span.



GDHS Hosts Women's Empowerment Session

By Morongwe Chounyane

The Department recently hosted a powerful women's empowerment session to celebrate advancements in gender equality and highlight the ongoing need for equitable opportunities in the workplace.

This session comes at a crucial time when women across all sectors continue to navigate barriers and challenges that persist in professional spaces. While the Department has made notable progress in promoting gender parity, the real challenge lies in ensuring that these advancements translate into meaningful change for every woman, from senior managers to those delivering essential services in communities.

MEC Motara's address set the tone for the session, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the often-overlooked contributions of women who are integral to service delivery. "The true strength of our department lies in the dedication of women who, day in and day out, work to improve the lives of our communities," she remarked. "We must ensure that their efforts are not only acknowledged but celebrated, as they are the foundation upon which our successes are built."

The MEC emphasised the need for systemic changes that go beyond policy and statistics, calling for a deeper cultural shift in how we view women's roles in both professional and community settings. Her words served as a reminder that while celebrating achievements, there is still much to be done to create a truly inclusive and supportive environment for all women in the department.

Acting HoD Puleng Gadebe-Mabaso echoed this sentiment, outlining the department's initiatives aimed at fostering an inclusive work culture. She highlighted that while the department now boasts 58% female representation in senior management roles, achieving true equality requires more than just meeting quotas. "It's about creating a space where every woman feels empowered to contribute and grow," Gadebe-Mabaso said. "This means addressing not only representation but also the everyday barriers that women face in their professional journeys."

The HoD also detailed the department's commitment to supporting women through various programs, including leadership development workshops, coaching clinics, and initiatives focused on addressing gender-based violence and workplace harassment. "These programs are crucial in building an environment where women can thrive, free from discrimination and bias," she added.

The session concluded with inspiring discussions on topics such as gender-based violence, mental health, self-care, and work-life balance, reinforcing the need to support women holistically. It was a reminder that empowerment is not just about professional advancement but also about nurturing the well-being of those who serve.

Overall, the event served as both a celebration of the progress made and a call to action for continued efforts to ensure that every woman in the department has the opportunity to succeed and be recognized for her contributions. The session reaffirmed the department's commitment to advancing gender equality and highlighted the collective responsibility to create an equitable workplace for all.



GPF and SA Home Loans forge Financial Partnership



By GPF Staff Writers

In its pursuit of providing adequate housing for the residents of Gauteng, the Gauteng Partnership Fund (GPF) has taken another significant step forward by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SA Home Loans.

This strategic alliance aims to offer financial solutions to beneficiaries who have been granted serviced stands through the Rapid Land Release programme. Under the terms of this MoU, SA Home Loans has pledged a substantial facility of R250 million to eligible beneficiaries, tailored to their specific housing needs. Each mortgage loan will be designed to accommodate the preferences and circumstances of the beneficiaries, with repayment terms stretching up to 30 years, where feasible.

Moreover, SA Home loans will also offer an innovative product named the Housing Access Loan, an unsecured financing option explicitly crafted for incremental housing delivery. This product does not require a bond to be registered over the land and offers a shorter repayment tenure, capped at 7 years. The allocation of funding will be meticulously assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure optimal suitability.

Lindiwe Kwele, CEO of the GPF, expressed her enthusiasm, emphasizing the organisation's commitment to becoming a comprehensive service hub for its clients. "We aim to be the one-stop destination where our clients can access a diverse range of services," remarked Kwele.

As the implementing agent of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements for the delivery of sustainable human settlements, the GPF assumes a crucial role in accelerating the provision of housing to address the region's pressing needs. This collaboration with SA Home Loans represents a pivotal strategy in ensuring that approved beneficiaries of serviced stands are empowered to construct homes on their allocated plots.



Department Partners with Habitat for Humanity to build houses for Mandela Day

By Luzuko Pongoma

Orange Farm families will benefit from houses built by the Department of Human Settlements in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in commemoration of Mandela Day.

Human Settlements MEC, Tasneem Motara has called for more public private partnerships to deal with the housing backlog in the province.

Speaking during Nelson Mandela Day celebrations in Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, Motara said that the partnership between Habitat for Humanity and various stakeholders that included donors and the private sector, demonstrates commitment to ensuring that an equal South Africa is possible through partnerships with the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Motara said that Nelson Mandela's life was a testament to the power of service, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of all of humanity.

"It is in this spirit that I have dedicated my own career to improving the lives of our people and this I do now through the development of sustainable dignified human settlements," said the MEC.

Motara mentioned that although houses built for Mandela Day go a long way, it is very little to address the huge housing backlog as Gauteng alone has a backlog of 1.3 million houses.

"The demand is huge but we have committed ourselves to address this problem working with institutions such as Habitat for Humanity. I call on more corporates and donors to support Habitat for Humanity South Africa as they partner with us in the delivery of human settlements" she said.

Motara said that she has worked in the built industry for many years and understands the challenges and complexities involved in this vital work. However she is driven by an unshakable belief that every South African deserves a roof over their head and a place they can truly call home.

"It is not merely a policy objective for me but a personal conviction that guides everything that I do. On this day we recommit ourselves to emulating Madiba's example to be the change that we wish to see in the world, as Tata Mandela understood that true greatness lies not in the pursuit of personal gain but in the selfless actions that uplift and empower our fellow citizens," she said.

Motara said that Habitat for Humanity was a remarkable organisation that has long been a catalyst for advancing human settlements. Through their tireless efforts they have ensured that the dream of decent, affordable housing becomes a reality for countless families in need. Department is grateful for the partnership and valuable support of the Industrial Development Corporation in making this event possible.



Mandela Day: Volunteers are a shining example of Ubuntu



Motara thanked the volunteers and said that their selfless service is a shining example of the spirit of Ubuntu that Madiba championed.

"To the recipients of these homes I say; may these walls not only shelter you but also provide a foundation for your dreams to take root and flourish. May these be the start of a new chapter in your lives, one filled hope, opportunity and the certainty that your community stands with," she said.

Gladwill Lucky Mfuloane, who works in the Department's Joburg Region Service Delivery unit, said that the 67 Minutes of Mandela day was awesome especially in understanding and seeing what adding bricks to build a home to a destitute family means. That brick represent security, shelter and sense of belonging.

"It made one to realise the importance of the Department of Gauteng Human Settlements and it was fun to welcome the MEC on site and share so much laughter and witnessing her humility and humbleness," said Mfuloane.



South Africa at the Inaugural Africa Urban Forum.



By Amanda Khoza

The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Tandi Mahambehlala, led a South African delegation to the 1st Africa Urban Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from September 4th to 6th, 2024. The forum aimed to promote sustainable urbanization in Africa under the theme "Sustainable Urbanization for Africa's Transformation: Agenda 2063."

"Africa is experiencing rapid urbanization, leading to an increase in urban poverty as people move to cities to escape rural hardships. Many African cities and towns are ill-prepared for this population growth, with an estimated 60% of the urban population living in slums and informal settlements," said Deputy Minister Mahambehlala.

South Africa has been affected by rapid urbanization, leading to increased pressure on the government to provide affordable housing as people migrate to urban areas in search of economic opportunities.

Mahambehlala emphasized the urgency of transforming informal settlements and slums to enhance resilience, safety, and social cohesion. She also highlighted the need for urbanization to benefit rural development by providing markets, services, and linkages, thereby transforming the rural-urban continuum.

She said this when she presented the South Africa's Country Statement at the at the African Urban Forum.

The Africa Urban Forum, established by the African Union Commission in 2022, is a

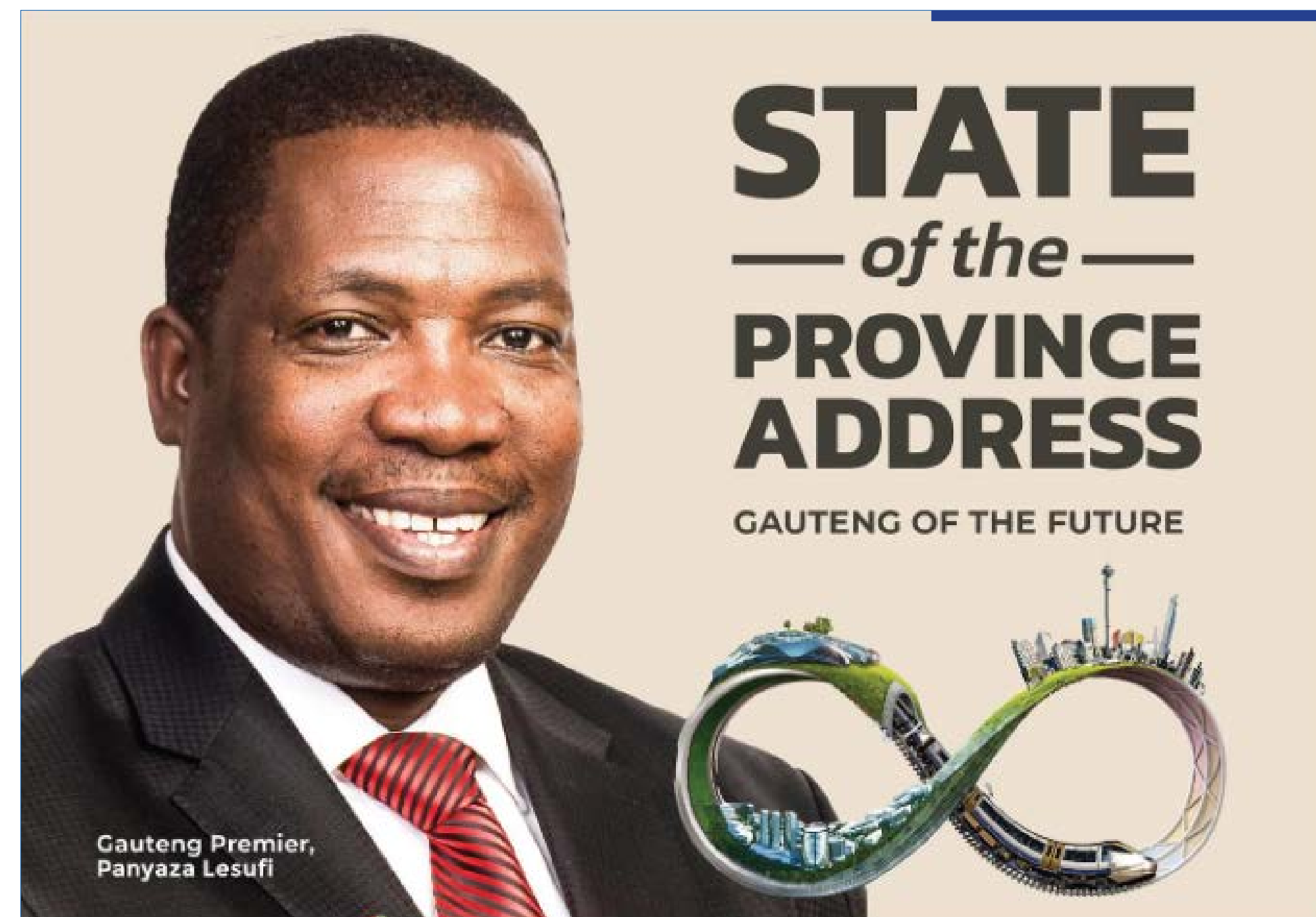


high-level continental platform that brings together African countries to address rapid urbanization.

The South African delegation included Dr. Dickson Masemola, the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and members of the National Executive Committee of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

Other attendees included African Union Commissioners, ministers, ambassadors, the executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, mayors, local government representatives, and members of civil society and academia.

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS: A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



By Nthele Motsepe

This year's State of the Province Address (SOPA) pledged a future free of informal settlements and townships that are clean, green, and economically productive among other goodies.

Addressing the sitting, Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi highlighted various milestones achieved through the Gauteng Trade and Investment Strategy, the Blue IQ Mega Infrastructure projects, the Ten-Pillar Programme of Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation (TMR), the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) Plan, and now the elevated priorities anchored on Township, Informal Settlements and Hostel (TISH) as the province kickstarted the seventh administration.

Premier Lesufi also addressed crime fighting, lawlessness and corruption, accelerating economic growth, building the capacity of the state, and fine-tuning of communication capabilities among other priorities.

Closer home to the Department in the Human Settlements, Lesufi stated: "Our townships represent who we are and where we come from. They remain special places, but they are in a very bad state. Last year we committed to changing the face of townships, informal settlements and hostels. We are now taking this work to another level with our ambitious programme that will see the undeveloped four rooms in our townships being changed. Starting with indigent families, through this ANC government that I have the honour to lead, we will improve the conditions of these homes."

Lesufi said that this unprecedented program will include the recruitment of more than 40,000 unemployed township people who will be trained as artisans, bricklayers, electricians, and plumbers through a programme called "iCrush Ne Lova" - a date with the unemployed.

This cohort will be enrolled in TVET colleges and SETA programs with direct employment in mind upon completing of this skilling journey.

He went on: "To realise this, we will also expand our township database of South African architects, hardware stores, building suppliers and contractors to assist in the design and construction of upgrades to houses in the townships.

Unemployed people in the townships will be trained and upskilled to be part of this initiative."

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

CUSTOMER SUPPORT CENTRES

The mandate of the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements is to provide housing opportunities and facilitate the development of sustainable, integrated human settlements. The Department offers its subsidies and services through its Customer Support Centres in Regions;

Region	Customer Support Centre
Johannesburg	129 Fox Street, Johannesburg Marshalltown 2107
Ekurhuleni	68 Voortrekker Rd, Nevada Building, Alberton
Tshwane	50 Hamilton Street, Gilboa Building Corner Hamilton and Edmond street Arcadia
West Rand - Mogale City	56 Kruger Street, Corner Burger Street, Lubners Building Krugersdorp, Mogale City
Vaal Region	28 Market Avenue, Vereeniging, 1930

All Gauteng Department of Human Settlements email queries:
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