



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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TO: ALL MEDIA

EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: ETHEKWINI INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADE SUMMIT

Date: 12 February 2019

Venue: Protea Karridene Hotel, Winklespruit-Kingsburgh

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

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The rapid urbanisation together with the inherent challenges in the exponential growth and proliferation of informal settlements within eThekweni Metro has necessitated a holistic approach to the burgeoning problem of informal settlements.

It is against this background that the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Ravigasen Pillay is hosting a two-day Informal Settlements Upgraded with a particular focus on eThekweni Municipality.

The summit seeks to improve the coordination and alignment in the informal settlements upgrade service delivery process and provide a platform for engagement to all role-players involved in this sector.

eThekweni Metro is the largest metropolitan city in the province with the highest population in KZN. It is most industrialised and the economic hub in KZN. Hence, it experiences the most in-migration from both within the province and outside the province.

According to the State of South African Cities Report 2016, 40% of the global urban expansion is taking place in slums.

The anticipated acceleration of the population growth in eThekweni together with the estimated 25% households that are currently living in squalid conditions/informal structures implies that the provision of urban infrastructure, including more affordable housing, and urban planning and governance on informal settlements needs to be intensified in order to accommodate the influx.

The Metro has identified and documented all its informal settlements and has a plan to gradually upgrade informal settlements including relocating additional families to Greenfield projects based on available budget.

A total of 553 informal settlements exist in various areas within eThekweni with an estimated total of 237 000 dwellings.