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The National Upgrading Support Programme is a programme of the National Department of Human Settlements

Technical assistance for Rustenburg and North West

The National Department of Human Settlements (NDHS) and the Housing Development Agency (HDA) are preparing to provide technical assistance for informal settlement upgrading in Rustenburg, (North West province) through the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP).

The Marikana tragedy has brought to attention the social and economic conditions in the townships and informal settlements of Rustenburg. This led to positive and constructive engagement between the NUSP team and senior Rustenburg officials around activities to accelerate support for a programme of upgrading informal settlements in the city. The NUSP team will deploy technical assistance to Rustenburg to move quickly to undertake detailed settlement level project plans in close consultation with affected Rustenburg communities and the province.

RUSTENBURG INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS PRIORITISED FOR UPGRADING UNDER THE NUSP

- Mbeki Sun
- Yizo Yizo
- Ramochana
- Ikageng
- Ikemeleng
- Mmaditlhokwa
- Nkaneng
- Popo Molefe
- Zakhele
- Freedom Park

The costs and deployment of technical assistance will be shared between the NDHS through the NUSP programme, and the HDA. This is another example of cooperation between the HDA and the NDHS – the two entities have come to a co-funding arrangement whereby costs will be shared.

At the broader provincial level, the NUSP team has established a good working relationship with the North West Department of Human Settlements, leading to the briefing of all NUSP municipalities in the provinces on programme, targets and commitments. The province has established a NUSP forum to guide the programme, and the NUSP team are following up with municipalities to determine their technical assistance requirements.



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RUSTENBURG'S APPROACH TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING

Rustenburg's informal settlements are among the fastest growing in South Africa, at ONE time hitting a population growth rate of around 6% per annum.

The informal settlements situation in Rustenburg is characterised by complex stakeholder relationships involving the municipality, mining companies, the Royal Bafokeng, North West Department of Human Settlements, the District Council, the mine worker representative bodies and community structures. All parties will need to be involved in producing viable development programmes to upgrade the city's informal settlements.

The municipality has made a commendable shift to a community-based planning approach as expressed in their informal settlements upgrading plan "an open and negotiated engagement with residents in informal settlements is best placed to achieve sustainable development options especially in the Rustenburg area, in light of the recent Marikana tragedy of 16 August 2012 that has left deep scars within the communities." The plan also includes four component thrusts for informal settlements upgrading these areas:

- Upgrading of informal settlements
- Development of affordable rental housing
- Capacity assembly to manage the interventions
- Institutional gearing up to assimilate accredited functions

Limpopo moves forward on informal settlement upgrading

The Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs has partnered with the HDA to ensure accelerated delivery of sustainable human settlements in the province as part of the NUSP initiative. The Department concluded a medium-term operational plan with the HDA in 2011 to assist with land geospatial services, planning, informal settlements upgrading, and technical project implementation.

In terms of informal settlements upgrading support, the HDA has been very active in Limpopo over the past year. An audit and rapid assessment has been undertaken of 67 informal settlements in 17 municipalities in order to determine the status quo of each informal settlement in terms of basic services provided, ie water, sewerage, electricity, roads and storm water, waste removal. Assessment of settlement patterns to determine informal settlement demand and the possibility of establishing or implementing livelihood programmes was also undertaken as part of the audit and rapid assessment.

The Agency then conducted feasibility studies and project packaging in six NUSP municipalities (Polokwane, Modimolle, Greater Tubatse, Lephalale, Elias Motswaledi, Thabazimbi) in order to develop assessed project pipeline and multi-year expenditure to submit for project funding for implementation.

The HDA has also developed draft municipality upgrading plans for the NUSP municipalities, established a provincial forum on informal settlements, and proposed the definition of informal settlements in the province.

Current informal settlement upgrade work includes conducting household enumerations to determine the population in each settlement and possible transformation plans – the details of this will be reported on in the next NUSP newsletter.



NUSP and the National Development Plan

The National Development Plan – Vision 2030 was approved by the ANC Policy Conference in Manuagang in December 2012. Chapter 8 of this plan deals with human settlements and endorses the current approach of NUSP with regards incremental upgrading of informal settlements and recommends that this is expanded to a larger scale. It also calls for new instruments for interim forms of tenure to speed up the regularisation of informal settlements and for the wider use of participatory planning and community decision-making in project planning and implementation. The plan will become the development framework for the country from now until 2030.

A NEW WEBSITE FOR NUSP

The NUSP website has had an upgrade and the team is proud to announce that the new website will go live on 31 January 2013. We hope you will find this website user-friendly and useful. Please visit www.upgradingsupport.org and send us your comments.



human settlements

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