The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements: Ms Zou Kota Fredericks hosted the National Informal Settlements Summit in Khayelitsha, Cape Town on 2 July 2013. The main purpose of the summit was to reinforce government’s key policy directives towards the upgrading of informal settlements through building partnerships with all key stakeholders within the human settlements sector.

The Deputy Minister made a call to communities to trust government when it came to “in situ” upgrading and she mentioned that “people are no longer relocated when settlements are upgraded and basic services provided”. She further emphasised that people should be tolerant and should not resist the incremental approach to upgrading.

Professor Philip Harrison, a member of the National Planning Commission, also presented on the National Development Plan (NDP) in relation to informal settlements and transforming human settlements. He mentioned that while there had been a gradual decline in the number of people living in informal settlements over the past ten years, there has also been a significant increase in backyard shack dwellers. Prof Harrison further emphasised the critical need to transform human settlement patterns in South Africa in line with chapter 8 of the NDP.

A platform was also provided to three metros (City of Cape Town, Ethekwini and Buffalo City) to show case examples of good practice in incremental upgrading of informal settlements.

ISN-SDI-COURC, DAG and Abahlali Basemjondolo were also provided with a platform in the last part of the summit to showcase good examples of community-led planning.

**National informal settlement summit**

### Tenders under evaluation

**George:**
- Update informal settlement master plan
- Produce upgrading plans for 12 informal settlements

**Buffalo City:**
- Develop informal settlement upgrading policy and strategy
- Produce detailed upgrading action plans for 32 informal settlements

**Emfuleni:**
- Undertake rapid assessment and categorisation of all informal settlements
- Produce upgrading strategy and programme for the municipality

**Mossel Bay:**
- Undertake rapid assessment and categorisation of all informal settlements
- Produce upgrading strategy and programme for the municipality

**Rustenburg:**
- Produce upgrading action plans for 8 informal settlements

**Tshwane:**
- Develop metro informal settlement upgrading strategy
- Produce 3 regional area informal settlement upgrading programmes
- Produce upgrading action plans for 30 informal settlements

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Monty Narsoo, NUSP governance advisor
What’s happening in MK Square, Manguang?

The HDA is working closely with Mangaung Metro Municipality to deliver on the NUSP and developing an action plan which should see MK Square informal settlement in Manguang getting to implementation. MK Square is a long established settlement of about 450 households and approximately seven kilometres from the centre of Manguang. The social assessment phase of the project shows that the community is stable and characterised by long established families close to municipal services and amenities. The technical assessment has revealed that the site is viable and appropriate for long term planning for upgrading with top structures as there is no constraint on land, bulk services, topography, environmental, and geotech. The settlement is located in between established and proclaimed townships of Mangaung which makes access to socio economic amenities easy. The assessment further recommended the project for a full in-situ upgrading.

Introductory workshop on informal settlement upgrading in Limpopo

The HDA together with the National Department of Human Settlements facilitated a two-day introductory informal settlement upgrading capacity-building workshop in Limpopo on 25 and 26 June. The provincial department head of CoGSTA, Ms Nnana Manamela, opened the second day of the workshop with an introduction to poverty issues. She was very positive about the HDA, the National Upgrade Support Programme (NUSP) and the workshop and said of the workshop materials, “I went through the manual – and I love it.” Well over 60 officials from the various Limpopo municipalities and the province attended the workshop.

Odette Crofton, HDA General Manager, identified the workshop as the first of its kind in Limpopo, but NUSP governance advisor Monty Narsoo pointed out that it’s in fact the first of its kind in the country –

Introductory informal settlement upgrading capacity-building workshop

and his comment was greeted with applause. Similar workshops will be rolled out across the country.

The objectives of the Limpopo workshop were to:

- introduce the key components of the informal settlement upgrading process,
- outline the various issues and aspects of each step in the upgrading process, and
- share information on issues and challenges specific to Limpopo and its municipalities.

Leaving the workshop with a specially developed manual on informal-settlement upgrading in South Africa, the officials also gained insight into the various components of the informal-settlement upgrading process, as well as an understanding of the issues that are generally encountered during the process.