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Media Statement

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BLOCKED PROJECTS REMAIN A CHALLENGE

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements led by the Chairperson, Mmatshwene Semenya, has recently visited the Ngaka Modiri Molema District to monitor progress on blocked projects in the area.

Semenya outlined the purpose of the visit as to monitor how the budget allocated for housing projects was used as well as to ensure that projects are completed on time. She emphasized that the Department of Human Settlements is the service delivery department and it is mandated to provide communities with houses. In addition, she urged the department to terminate and blacklist contractors who are under-performing.

The Director for Ngaka Modiri Molema District, Lungile Mkhize, made a presentation on the number of housing projects around Kopela and surrounding villages. He gave an indication of the projects who remained blocked since 2019. "The major reasons for these blocked projects included poor performance of contractors, land invasions, and lack of bulk infrastructure," he added.

Members said abandonment of projects by the contractors appeared to be a major problem in the department and this should be taken into consideration. The Department provided a brief overview of their process of unblocking these projects and outlined the key interventions where projects were unfinished. The department would also assess the issues in each of the projects to determine what level of intervention was required to ensure the completion of the projects.

However, Mkhize indicated that the department would continue monitoring projects and verifying information received against the Housing Subsidy System. The delegation stated its commitment to provide adequate housing for communities that faced housing challenges.

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