PURPOSE OF THE ISSP FORUM
The ISSP Forum was established after the development and adoption of the Informal Settlement Support Framework by the Western Cape Government. The Department of Human Settlements, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has decided to follow a specific path to respond to the paradigm shifts:

- Informal settlements are a more enduring feature of the provincial landscape than generally appreciated.
- There is a lack of clear and coherent understanding and response from the sector involved in planning for informal settlements.
- Informal settlement communities are inadequately involved in the planning and decision making processes.
- Non-state actors (the private sector & NGOs) are inadequately utilised in responding more effectively to informality.

In an attempt to address the needs of informal settlement communities, the WCDHS, in partnership with various municipalities and stakeholders, created the ISSP Forum for collaboration and partnership opportunities that will put this Province on a path to transform all informal settlements into liveable, integrated sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods by 2030.

The purpose of ISSP Forum is to facilitate the implementation of the Western Cape strategic priorities in accordance with the shifts identified in the ISSP and ultimately Outcomes 8 directives through the following approaches:

- Primarily, enhancing inter-governmental coordination and alignment with regard to the implementation of the comprehensive plan for the upgrading of informal settlements;
- Creating space for dialogue on pertinent issues between the public and private sector (including academia, Non-Governmental Organisations and independent consultants who are role players in the informal settlement upgrade space.);
- Utilising a “whole of society” approach to battle challenges faced in informal settlements on a scale that encourages participatory planning.
As the chairperson, Mr Thando Mguli, Head of Department at Western Cape Human Settlements, set the scene of the meeting by providing background to the audience. He emphasized the urgency of accelerated service delivery to informal settlement communities. In his address, he elaborated on the need to upscale interventions toward these communities to restore their dignity and provide the necessary services for their livelihood and survival. He implored all stakeholders to be creative thinkers and bring innovative solutions to respond to the challenges on the ground.

The programme of the day

General update from DHS; Presentation by Mr. David Alli highlight the following- NGO & PSP appointment status, ISSP Guideline and general update

Municipalities presentation on 2019/2020 informal settlement targets and newly identified projects. The following municipal presentation were held: Saldanha Bay (Reginald Bent); Stellenbosch (Kamohelo Mchunu); Breede Valley (Lindilizwi Mngxeka); George (Wendy Mentor); Witzenberg (Charlotte Mackenzie); CoCT (Waleed Adams)

Feedback on Better Living Challenge (BLC) incubator and roll out plan discussion

Presentation from the NGO Sector regarding activities on ground. CORC and VPUU presented progress on their activities in the two informal settlements Sibanye & Riemvasmaak respectively

Presentation on Alternative Sanitation Program from Mr. Ronald Makunya

Closing. The HoD closed the meeting and encouraged everyone to continue to make meaningful difference to life of communities in our informal settlement. The next meeting will be held 2nd August 2019