

Democratic Alliance statement by
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Housing budget: Diminished funds, more demands

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With a backlog of nearly 1 million houses in Gauteng, the Department of Human Settlements' budget for the 2016/17 financial year was slashed by nearly a R1 billion.

In 2015/16 the department received a budget of R5.9 billion, this year it will only receive R5.8 billion.

Due to the department's failure to effectively roll out housing, the National Department of Human Settlements pulled the plug on R980 million worth of funding, which in the previous financial year could have built 7 567 houses.

Human settlements is the only department in the Gauteng Provincial Government that did not receive an increase in its budget.

Gauteng Premier, David Makhura, along with Finance MEC Barbara Creecy and MEC for Human Settlements, Paul Mashatile must lobby national government with a turnaround strategy to ensure that this grant will be re-allocated.

The department cannot go another year failing to deliver its mandate – ultimately keeping the province's most marginalised trapped in the cycle of homelessness.

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