



**Publication:** Mercury, The - Main

**Title:** Human Settlements and Public Works host media engagement breakfast and information sharing session

**Publish date:** 28 Oct 2022

**Page:** 5

**Reach:** 25432

**AVE:** R  
17998.60

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Reporter

## Human Settlements and Public Works host media engagement breakfast and information sharing session

THE two built environment sector provincial departments of Human Settlements and Public Works are looking forward to a professional and cordial working relationship with the media.

This is according to KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, who addressed a strategic media engagement breakfast and information sharing session held earlier this month.

The event was attended by news editors, editors, radio station managers and senior journalists from both mainstream and community media outlets, for print and digital media.

Dr Mahlaba told the gathered members of the media that he has an open-door policy, and that they should continue playing a robust oversight role in holding government or departments accountable.

"Equally so, we expect the esteemed members of the fourth estate to applaud us where we have done well. This is a symbiotic relationship. We, in government, regard members of the media as our partners in development and in our quest to better the lives of our people," said Mahlaba.

The session was also attended by the chief accounting officers of the two departments – HOD for Human Settlements, Mdu Zungu and acting HOD of Public Works, Siboniso Majola – together with members of the management committees of both departments.

"Both departments are at the forefront of the government's infrastructure development revolution in that anything that is construction within the state sector, often finds expression



KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba with chief accounting officers, Mdu Zungu of Human Settlements and Siboniso Majola of Public Works at the strategic media engagement and information sharing session. Well-known media personality Alex Nhlanhla Mthiyane was the programme director.

in these two built environment departments," said Zungu.

"We meet this morning amid the on-going efforts to rebuild our beautiful province from the devastating April and May floods that afflicted various districts and towns, which most of your news media outlets documented extensively for the entire world to witness about five months back."

Zungu said he sincerely hoped that the information sharing session would assist in giving news executives, editors and station managers insight as to what these two departments had been doing behind the scenes to ameliorate the tragic situations following the floods of April and May.

"Hopefully, this will go a long way to empower the manner in which you report on some of the challenges that government faces, as it tries to help many affected communities to re-establish their lives."