

Eye Witness News

'Rural areas still lack basic sanitation'

Graeme Raubenheimer | 10 May 2013

CAPE TOWN - The Financial and Fiscal Commission on Friday said even with the help of the rural household infrastructure grant, many municipalities were failing to reduce the sanitation backlogs.

It was briefing Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements in Cape Town.

The grant is part of a R1 billion programme aimed at drastically reducing the country's rural sanitation backlogs by 2014.

The commission told Members of Parliament (MPs) many rural municipalities, which were funded by the infrastructure grant, were not meeting their targets.

In 2011 and 2012, the Limpopo Provincial Government aimed to build more than 5,000 homes with access to basic services, but only constructed about 2,000 houses.

The homes would have been funded through the grant.

The commission also heard that some municipalities did not even know about the grant.

It also said while more than three million housing units were delivered in 2011, it was not clear how many of the beneficiaries had title deeds.

The commission called on government to review some laws to streamline the title deed registrations.

In October, it was revealed that the Department of Human Settlements had only spent around R28 million of the R479.5 million of the rural household infrastructure grant.

According to statistics, 2.4 million households across the country still lack basic sanitation services.

<http://ewn.co.za/2013/05/10/Rural-areas-still-lack-basic-sanitation>