



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## MINISTER MFEKETO PLEASED WITH PROGRESS ON DISASTER HOUSES

Minister for Human Settlements: Nomaindia Mfeketo commended the Department on the strides made thus far in repairing storm-damaged houses in KaNyamazane, City of Mbombela in Mpumalanga. The Minister made a visit in the area on Saturday (09 March 2019) to assess the progress made and challenges confronted by the people of KaNyamazane.

During her interaction with the beneficiaries, the Minister expressed delight on the fact that the Department has managed to complete the first phase of 1050 rehabilitation houses. "I am quite happy with the progress here and the fact that people have houses. The repairs must continue and those in need of houses must benefit," she said.

Reacting to the Minister's visit Gogo Janah Tipopi (72) from extension 19, she expressed her gratitude to the Minister and the repairs done to her house by the Department. "I very happy and honoured by the Minister's visit. My house was damaged by the storm last year and it has since been fixed, I am contented with that," expressed Gogo Tipopi. Her house had to be demolished after storm damage and built afresh due to structural defects that made it impossible for the Department to repair the open roof only.

The Department had set its deadline for completion of 1050 first phase houses before the end of the current financial year. Thus far, the first phase target has been met and the Department will be commencing with the second phase soon, since the Department has received the awaited additional funding from the National Department of Human Settlements. Henceforth, the Department will be in a position to repair all houses as expected and restore the dignity of storm victims.

The residents of KaNyamazane and surroundings embarked on public protest last year that lasted for two weeks over the rehabilitation of the houses. Premier Refilwe Mtsweni visited the areas and engaged the communities in a bid to intervene on the matter. Since then, work has been continuing despite financial distress. Now that funds are available, the remainder from the original 2130 damaged houses will be fixed.

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