



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release**  
**15 November 2024**

### **GOVERNMENT PRIORITISES RELIEF EFFORTS FOR MKHONDO DISASTER VICTIMS**

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has moved in to provide relief to victims of heavy rains and thunderstorms that recently struck the Mkhondo Local Municipality, leaving widespread devastation in its wake. As such, Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr. Speed Mashilo, commended disaster response teams, private sector, and government agencies for their tireless work under challenging conditions to assist the affected communities.

The disaster affected an estimated 400 households, a number expected to rise as assessments continue, caused extensive damage to homes and public infrastructure, including schools and healthcare facilities. Strong winds uprooted trees, blew off roofs, and disrupted essential services such as water and electricity. During his visit, MEC Mashilo, accompanied by Executive Mayor Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu, pledged immediate intervention to support affected families. "We are going to submit a request for emergency funding from the national department. For those who have lost their government-subsidised houses, we will rebuild them," Mashilo assured. He also expressed gratitude to stakeholders who provided emergency relief, including tarpaulins, blankets, and food parcels, and applauded Eskom for its efforts to restore electricity by repairing damaged poles and cables.

One resident, 58-year-old Mr. Shayeem Chande, whose house was damaged when a tree fell on it, expressed relief after the government's visit. "We are grateful no one was injured. Seeing our leaders here brings hope that our houses will be fixed soon," he said, appealing for assistance to repair his uninsured home. Mayor Ndhlovu echoed these sentiments, thanking volunteers and the community for their selfless contributions during the crisis. "The storm has left many people without roofs over their heads, but the intervention by the MEC gives us hope for relief," she said, emphasising that disaster teams continue to assess the damage and ensure support reaches all affected families.

MEC Mashilo has urged the task team to expedite assessment reports to determine the full extent of the damage and the funding required for restoration. "The government's priority is to ensure all affected households receive immediate humanitarian relief and to fast-track the restoration of services," he emphasised. The heavy rains disrupted water and electricity supplies in several communities, further highlighting the urgent need for coordinated disaster response. As assessments continue, the government remains committed to addressing the needs of the affected families and restoring normalcy in the shortest possible time. The Province also experienced similar disaster at both Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi and City of Mbombela Local Municipalities recently.

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