



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Press Release
23 November 2018

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS RECORDED TO STORM DAMAGED HOUSES

In its strides to rectify severely damaged houses in KaNyamazane and surroundings in the City of Mbombela, Mpumalanga owing to heavy storms in May that wreaked havoc in the province leaving 2130 houses damaged and people inconvenienced, the Department of Human Settlements has so far recorded a considerable number of 574 of the 1050 severely damaged houses bringing relief to many of its distraught beneficiaries whilst others are at various stages of rehabilitation.

The Department together with the assembled contractors' onsite has been working tirelessly to ensure that all houses are fixed swiftly to meet the set target date by Premier Refilwe Mtshweni before the end of December. Though still waiting for additional funding from the National Department of Human Settlements and other possible funding sources being explored, to help speed up the repairs, there is a considerable progress which, besides the 574 has been made and all houses are receiving thorough attention.

One of the elated beneficiaries, Ms. Lindiwe Dube expressed her joy at the early completion of her house and remarked that she was a bit concerned since there were signs of some rain in the past few weeks. "I was worried that the rain might come again and harm us. I am grateful that the Department kept their promise and what makes me feel even much better is seeing them continuing to help every affected household in the area," appreciated Dube.

Head of Human Settlements, Mr. Kebone Masange reiterated the Department's commitment to meet the set deadline for the completion of the 1050 severely damaged houses during the first phase. "The contractors and department are working tirelessly to adhere to the Premier's deadline. We remain committed to the set deadline". He further added that government will however; ensure that all natural disasters – though unplanned - are attended to and given the expediency they deserve whenever they occur. The May storm prompted the community to embark on a two-week long public protest claiming slow progress in rehabilitating the houses – a situation which government appropriately quelled.

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