



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Press Release  
08 February 2019**

**DEPARTMENT FORGES AHEAD TO REHABILITATE STORM DAMAGED HOUSES**

The Department of Human Settlements continues with its' efforts to restore houses damaged by the storm at KaNyamazane and surroundings in the City of Mbombela, Mpumalanga. To date 881 houses have been successfully refurbished out of the 1050 badly damaged houses of the first phase (batch) whilst the other 169 are at various stages of restoration. The houses were damaged by heavy storms that caused mayhem and left many people stranded and roofless in 2018.

The Department has since received a positive indication from National Department of Human Settlements that additional funding will be granted to repair all the remaining houses as part of the total of 2130 damaged houses. The Department anticipates realising full completion of the first batch of houses before the end of the current financial year. Moreover, the completion of the entire 2130 damaged houses is expected to be before the end of the second quarter for the ensuing 2019/20 financial year.

Head of Human Settlements, Mr Kebone Masange reasserted contractors on the project are determined to ensure that the first phase is completed. "Our contractors are going to remain on site and attend every affected house and ensure that we deliver as expected to the people". He further alluded that with the positive indication from the National Department of Human Settlements on additional funding, one can only draw optimism that all houses will be repaired in no time. "We are receiving a positive indication on the additional funding we waiting for, despondency and despair should crumble for on receipt of funding we will complete the entire 2130 damaged houses quickly and swiftly" concluded Masange.

The residents of KaNyamazane 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. The total number of houses successfully rehabilitated forms part of the 1050 first batch whilst the entire project (difference of 2130) of the minimally damaged houses will be attended as soon as funds are made available.

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