



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Rhino & Samora Machel Buildings, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

Press Release
11 October 2018

PREMIER MTSHWENI PLEASED WITH PROGRESS ON DISASTER HOUSES

Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni has expressed satisfaction with progress made on the rehabilitation of storm damaged houses during an unannounced visit to KaNyamazane, City of Mbombela. Together with Human Settlements MEC, Norah Mahlangu, Economic Development MEC, Skhumbuzo Kholwane and City of Mbombela Executive Mayor, Cllr Sbusiso Mathonsi, Premier Mtshweni was pleased to discover that about 400 critically damaged houses were successfully renovated.

The entourage inspected the work currently underway and interacted with beneficiaries on their general sense of the project. Premier Mtshweni commended the community for their remarkable patience on the contractors and the department for adding 12 new contractors to fast track and increases the capacity on the ground. "As government we are satisfied with the progress that has been recorded in the area so far. Despite having more work to complete but we are hopeful that with the addition of contractors on the ground we should be able to meet our target by December," charged Premier Mtshweni.

The visit follows recent ones in the affected settlements who protested for service delivery issues including their damaged houses due to the storm that hit the province in May this year. The prolonged public protest in the municipality saw residents taking to the streets protesting against the apparent delays in fixing their storm damaged houses. The public protests which delayed the delivery of the project which had already been started in July saw violence, damage to property and disruption of livelihoods taking centre stage during the three weeks.

Speaking to some of the beneficiaries regarding the developments, Mr Mduduzi Mndawe expressed himself as saying: "I am grateful to our government for the intervention. I honestly would not have been able to afford to fix the damages to my house on my own. I am unemployed and have no income. I just believe that if we can learn to be patient with our government we can all get helped." Mndawe is among the approximately 400 that have their houses roofed and others will be processed on an ongoing basis.

Sharing the same sentiments with Mndawe was Ms Lindiwe Dube who despite complaining about a few snags to be still addressed commended the Department's intervention with contractors to come rescue her during her time of despair. She said, "Today my house is back to normal. The only issue that was confusing was when the interventions seemed too slow. However, now that we can see for ourselves your determination to assist us, we are very happy. Thanks for not abandoning us in our desperate hour." Whilst the Department is awaiting positive feedback on additional funding from national government, Premier Mtshweni hinted that the province may have to consider aiding the situation during Provincial Budget Adjustment in November.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT PERSON: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ flngobe@mpg.gov.za

