

# Mayor and MEC intervene

## S'CELO KHUZWAYO

ETHEKWINI Municipality and KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements have made an undertaking to swiftly deal with the issue of housing in Marianridge that recently saw the community going on the rampage.

Subsequent to the protests where people barricaded roads with burning tyres, Human Settlements MEC Ravi Pillay and Mayor James Nxumalo went to the area where they listened to the concerns of the community. Amongst various issues, housing was topping the list.

Nxumalo brought with him various departments so they would explain to the community how far the plans of bringing development have gone. The major issue was about delivery of houses. Residents said they had been waiting for houses for a long time. Nxumalo admitted that the Municipality faces a huge backlog in the provision of houses but promised that the Council with the Human Settlements Department will do whatever it takes to deal with the situation. "We have already discussed the issue of housing with the MEC and in that meeting we involved all other relevant departments. And today again we decided to come with them so they



**HUMAN Settlements MEC and Mayor James Nxumalo with some officials from eThekwni Municipality's Departments to deal with the problems affecting the people of Marlanridge, with housing being the main issue**

Picture: THANDAZILE MBILI □

can explain clearly all processes involved," Nxumalo said. Pillay also brought hope to the people of Marianridge, committing himself to doing all he can to make sure that the provision of houses is speeded up. "In my budget speech the area of Marianridge was mentioned which means that it is part of the plan. And I want to assure you that I

will work with the Municipality to make sure this is done soon," he said. Jeff Goldstone said he had been waiting for a house for more than seven years. "I hope that after this meeting we will see some positive results. We have suffered for a long time," he said. A steering committee consisting of five people from the community and

five from both the Municipality and Human Settlements Department was also formed. This committee will meet regularly and will see to it that everything is done faster and accordingly. Marianridge is one of the areas where there had been service delivery protests in eThekwini. In all other areas the situation had been brought to normality.

Meanwhile a five aside steering committee was also elected in Ntuzuma after a meeting held at F Section. People had complained about houses amongst other things.

They also called for the ward councillor's head to roll, accusing him of failing to deliver.

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