

Housing summit identifies priorities

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PROVIDING proper shelter for the community is a priority for the KwaDukuza Municipality because of a number of informal shacks that have mushroomed in the area recently.

The municipality hosted a summit at Ballito to identify ways of resolving this dilemma.

About 300 delegates were in attendance, in-

cluding representatives from the Department of Human Settlements, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, NHBRC, Councillors, Ward Committee members from all KwaDukuza's 27 wards, Amakhosi, iLembe District Municipality officials, Financial Institutions and environment professionals involved in housing projects.

KwaDukuza Municipality is regarded as one

of those doing well in terms of housing delivery; hence it is part of the six KZN municipalities to have received level two accreditation, which means they will undertake certain functions on behalf of the Department of Human Settlements from next year.

Eradication of slums in Entshawini, Lloyd, Chris Hani and Ward 24 has been prioritised, and the municipality also plans to fast-track the

building of low cost housing on Council owned land for the people earning between R3 500 and R15 000.

In Shakaville 303 sites and 400 in Hyde Park have been earmarked for this project.

Projects like the Woodmead Affordable Housing offered by Standard Bank to address the housing shortages are also in place.

It further resolved to promote rent-to-buy options to accommodate those who are blacklisted or undergoing debt rehabilitation.

The council will continue to appoint competent contractors who are registered with both NHBRC and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

The summit further resolved that local black-owned small businesses should be given opportunities to participate in the construction industry as contractors. Businesses in the housing construction industry run by women and the youth should be given support.

All housing projects should be labour intensive and should be registered with EPWP; giving local labour preference when it comes to job opportunities in all council projects.

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KwaDukuza Municipality Mayor Ricardo Mthembu addresses delegates at KwaDukuza Municipality's housing summit