

MEDIA STATEMENT

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2022

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF FLOODS VICTIMS FROM MASS CARE CENTRES TO

TRANSITIONAL EMERGENCY ACCOMODATION CONTINUES

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TWO MASS CARE CENTRES DISPLACEES RELOCATED TO DECENT ACCOMMODATION

A further two displaced communities that have been living in two mass care centres in eThekwini Municipality were this week moved to Transitional Emergency Accommodation (TEA) facilities within the city.

The communities were living in Tehuis Hostel in Umlaza, south of Durban and Truro Hall in Westville.

To date, 1 406 Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) have been completed in the Province to ensure that thousands of families who were displaced by the April 2022 floods are provided with decent homes. The TRUs. 1 325 of which are occupied thus far, is a temporary solution whilst permanent housing developments are also being steadfastly worked on. Of the completed TRUs, 81 remained unoccupied in KwaDukuza Municipality in Ilembe District.

Under-perfomance by service providers and the onset of the rain season has also seen a reduction in the 100 weekly target of TRU completions to 64 as of the end of last week.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements remains intent on pursuing the decanting of mass centres from all angles. Several mass care shelters remain in eThekwini, KwaDukuza and Msunduzi Local Municipalities.



Besides the construction of TRUs, technical assessment of recommended properties has also been completed for the temporary rehabilitation to decant mass care centres with urgency in and around eThekwini

The Department will not compromise on quality when identifying options to relocate the families currently being housed in these mass care centres. Two mass care centres have been closed in Harry Gwala District and Zululand District.

The initial allocation of TRUs have already been completed in ILembe, King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude and uMzinyathi Districts.

The eThekwini Municipality is awaiting the finalisation of earthworks for the construction of a further 1 064 TRUs. The Department of Human Settlement is now at the tail end of the initial 1 810 TRUs planned. This number is derived from the initial of 1 646 homeless households.

The remaining 138 households were confirmed as buildable, however the onset of rain season is affecting the delivery of TRUs.

Thus far, over R78 million has been paid to service providers. Close to a further R2,6 million is being processed for payment. The Province is almost close to spending R112 million of the first tranche of the allocated R325 million from National Treasury

The availability of suitable land is a challenge that is impeding this work. The Department remains committed to linking land to the shelters where people are currently being temporarily housed in.

It is anticipated that, in the forthcoming weeks, tangible evidence of construction will be visible in a further seven land parcels identified in eThekwini, ultimately yielding close to 1 064 TRUs as already alluded that there is finalisation of earthworks

Already three land parcels have been handed over to service providers with one outstanding to be handed over by end of this week. A further 1 224 platforms for additional TRUs have been cut.

ENDS



Issued by the KZN Department of Human Settlements
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