



MEDIA STATEMENT

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUBJECT : SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY FLOODS

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SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY FLOODS

It's been less than five (5) months since MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma, alongside KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli, conducted an inspection of the site where 1,200 households, affected by floods, will be provided with safe and dignified shelter in Cornubia in eThekweni Metro Municipality.

Since then, there has been significant progress towards meeting the target of completing 113 units, for flood victims in Phase 2A of the Cornubia Housing Project, by March 2026. All 113 sites have already been serviced. To date, the 113 houses have progressed beyond just foundations and they are all due for completion in March 2026.

In Phase 2B, 70% bulk infrastructure is complete and 146 sites are currently being serviced. The tender process has been initiated for civil and top structure contractors to complete the remaining units. The tender was advertised on 30th January 2026 and will close on the 6th March 2026.

Duma has been closely monitoring construction progress as this intervention forms part of the province's accelerated disaster recovery plan, aimed at ensuring that by 2027, every flood victim in KZN will be accommodated in a permanent and fully serviced home.

Approximately R600 million will be spent to ensure the building of the total 1,200 units in Cornubia so that the affected households, who have lost so much during the floods, will sleep as peacefully as the seventeen (17) flood-affected families of Copesville in Msunduzi Local Municipality after Duma handed them the keys to their permanent houses in August last year.

These handovers were immediately after Duma and Human Settlements Minister Thembi Simelane introduced the contractor who is currently building six (6) houses for the victims of disasters in Impendle. Five (5) of these houses are already at wall-plate level with construction of the sixth one set to commence soon.

This collaboration has made it possible for the Department to close all rented flats generally known as Transitional Emergency Accommodation (TEAs) located outside eThekweni in 2025. In eThekweni Metro 3 TEAs have been closed and another 5 are scheduled for closure in June 2026. Our Plan to close all TEAs by December 2026 or January 2027 is now realizable.

Disasters necessitate immediate responses before permanent housing solutions can be found. A landmark intervention was when Montclair Lodge in eThekweni Metro Municipality, which always seems to bear the brunt of disasters, became the first TEA to be owned by government. The KZN Department of Human Settlements purchased the Lodge from Transnet for R33 million in May 2025 and is repurposing it to house flood victims. Construction in Phase 1 [268 units] commenced in December 2025 and is set to be completed in March 2026. Phase 2 [332 units] is under planning by the KZN Department of Public Works.

The thousands left homeless by the disasters of 2022 and 2025 are seeing tangible evidence of the KZN Department of Human Settlement's unwavering commitment towards providing them with safe and dignified homes with the emphasis on long-term comfort. The significant progress recorded in providing permanent housing solutions for flood victims is a reflection of the KZN Department of Human Settlement's close working relations with all spheres of government and other stakeholders, including traditional leaders and communities.

For more information, please contact Ndabezinhle Sibiya (Spokesperson: MEC for Transport & Human Settlements) on 082 375 4742.

ENDS

****Pics provided on next page, as supplied by the KZN Department of Human Settlement's Communication Unit (10 February 2026)***



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In pics: Tangible evidence of permanent housing solutions for flood victims: The 113 units in Phase 2A of the Cornubia Housing Project in eThekweni Metro Municipality are due for completion in March 2026

