

***Elderly affected by devastating hailstorm and heavy rainfall in UMngeni :
MEC Duma, UMgungundlovu District Mayor and Minister of Human
Settlements have assigned teams to assist more than 820 residents***

Media and public statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma

23 March 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: Today, I am joined by the Mayor of UMgungundlovu District Cllr Mzi Zuma, local councillors and Heads of Departments – Human Settlements and Department of Transport - as we visit the affected families in Ward 8, 10, 11 and 13 in Mpophomeni and KwaHhaza under Umngeni Local Municipality.

This follows a devastating hailstorm and heavy rainfall last Friday that left a trail of destruction.

We are giving priority to senior citizens from more than 820 residents who are living in this township established more than 50 years ago.

More than 420 households have been profiled by disaster teams.

Critically, we are worried about hazardous asbestos roofs which remains highly dangerous and can cause long-term diseases such as severe lung damage.

Importantly, we wish to report that the Minister of Human Settlements Thembi Simelane has responded with a high sense of urgency following our request for interventions.

We have agreed on the need to speed up the replacement of asbestos with safer building material as part of rectification programme.

Roving Teams representing the Department of Human Settlements nationally and provincially, the KZN Department of Transport and UMgungundlovu District have been assigned to deliver much needed interventions by tomorrow.

The Roving Teams are working with councillors and disaster teams from UMgungundlovu District and Umngeni Local Municipality.

The focus is on speeding up the delivery of the following:-

- Urgent plan to replace hazardous asbestos roofs;
- Building materials for the damaged houses;
- Temporary residential unit where necessary;
- Much needed food hampers and other necessities;
- Repair and rehabilitation of damaged road infrastructure.

The MEC for Education Sipho Hlomuka has also assigned a team to assess damaged schools and to ensure that learning is not affected.

Finally, we will return tomorrow to monitor the delivery of much needed intervention.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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