

Six people died in eThekweni – 167 people affected including 98 adults and 68 children.

Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma following a visit to the affected families

21 February 2025

Nsimbini, eThekweni Municipality: We wish to report that throughout the day we visited families who lost their loved ones.

This follows a devastating heavy rainfall that destroyed homes, bridges, roads, and washed away graves.

By and large, we must all internalize the fact that localized mudslides are increasing in frequency and severity due to prolonged rainfall caused by severe weather patterns linked to climate change.

It was heartbreaking to witness human suffering and a trail of destruction left behind by mudslides that led to the collapse of houses with people asleep inside.

Joined by the Mayor of eThekweni Cllr Cyril Xaba, Exco Members, Local Councillors and religious leaders, today we spent time comforting families in KwaMakhutha, Adams Mission and Folweni.

We pray to God Almighty to give families strength following the loss of the following innocent souls:

1. Emmanuel Nkwanyana (45) : Ward 94
2. Lindokuhle Mthembu(13) :Ward 94
3. Mlungisi Mhlongo (44) : Ward 96
4. Sphindile Mhlongo (41) : Ward 96

It was too traumatic for the families, relatives, and children who lost a father and a mother.

Our hearts are with the families of other two victims including Alwande Sihlelelwe (12) of Ward 72.

A total of 167 people have been affected in various parts of eThekweni.

These include 98 adults and 68 children.

For families that we visited today, we wish to confirm that together with eThekweni Municipality, we have resolved to do the following:

1. Assist the families with groceries and funeral arrangements;
2. Explore the possibility of relocating families who are living on steep slopes;
3. Building emergency houses and permanent houses where they live;

4. Around families that we visited, we identified that the drainage system is becoming overwhelmed as a result of prolonged rainfall.

5. Working with eThekweni Municipality, we will strengthen the stormwater management system in order to redirect water and reduce flooding.

The Department of Transport will deploy graders and TLBs to assist families and to repair damaged roads.

Once again, we express our deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. We offer to be with them during this difficult period.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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