

Efficiency and speed from eThekweni Emergency and Disaster teams as 477 people, including children, are displaced following devastating fire: Duma says residents who contacted him have expressed their appreciation.

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma.

02 May 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We are in constant liaison with the Mayor of eThekweni, Cllr Cyril Xaba, and the Minister of Human Settlements, Thembi Simelane. This follows a devastating fire that left 477 people (299 children and 178 adults) displaced in Quarry Road Informal Settlements.

About 130 shacks were destroyed in a fire that allegedly started in a shack rented by a foreign national who is still at large.

Importantly, residents who contacted me and my office yesterday have expressed their deepest appreciation. Tribute must go to the team assigned by the mayor. Speed and efficiency are what should forever characterize our work as we move forward.

We wish to indicate that we have mandated a roving team to remain closer to the situation and ensure that residents are assisted. The team is working with Ward 25 Councillor Themba Mkhize and the ward committee.

The team is comprised of teams from human settlements led by the Head of the Department, Max Mbili; eThekweni Disaster and Human Settlements; and the National Department of Human Settlements.

As a temporary measure, residents have been accommodated in two marquees.

We are urgently arranging school uniforms for the children as they have to go back to school. The MEC for Education, Siphso Hlomuka, is receiving reports from his team.

A team is also processing the registration of IDs and birth certificates.

The MEC for Health, Nomagugu Simelane, and MEC for Social Development, Mbali Shinga, have also dispatched teams to assist

In conclusion, we wish to express our deepest appreciation to the following organizations that have come forward to assist the affected residents: -

1. Gift of the Givers Foundation - mattresses and blankets
2. Al Imdaad Foundation - ration packs
3. Red Cross - meals
4. Local community - supplying meals.
5. Ikabawo Performing Arts Academy - meals

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements.

Enquiries

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