

Foreign national runs away after fire destroys shacks in Quarry Road informal settlements: Duma announces that the #NenzaniLaEzweni operation will be extended to human settlements to deal with renting and selling of RDP houses to undocumented foreign nationals

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal

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Inkosi Mhlabanzima Maphumulo House: This morning, around 10h30, I received a WhatsApp message from a member of the ward committee in Quarry Road informal settlements, Ward 25.

This is after a fire, alleged to have started in a shack owned by a foreign national, destroyed their shacks and left them, including children, homeless.

We thank God that nobody died or was injured in this fire.

We have been liaising with eThekweni Mayor, Cyril Xaba, who urgently dispatched eThekweni Fire and Emergency services as well as disaster teams.

A team from my office, led by Head of the Department of Human Settlements, Max Mbili, is currently onsite with the Ward 25 Councillor, Themba Mkhize. The team has also met with members of the ward committee in the affected area.

We commend eThekweni Municipality for swiftly extinguishing the fire before it could escalate and cause more devastation.

We remain worried about the tendency of foreign nationals who disappear after causing a crisis.

We have cases of undocumented foreign drivers who have in the past disappeared after causing horrific accidents along the N3 that resulted in the death of innocent people.

We pause to express our deepest condolences to the family of a female victim who died in a horrific crash involving a Zambian-registered truck yesterday.

Several other people were injured when the Zambian truck driver lost control and crashed his truck into several cars on M7/N2 Interchange in Durban.

Lastly, we will never turn a blind eye to concerns raised by residents regarding undocumented foreign nationals.

We remain firmly opposed to renting and selling RDP houses to undocumented foreign nationals.

Flowing from above, we have agreed to extend the #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation to Human Settlements.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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