

## **More than 4000 families victims of floods accommodated: Duma and Mayor of eThekweni Cllr. Cyril Xaba Region hands over houses and prepares for devastating floods caused by Climate Change**

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

18 May 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: This week marks a very important chapter in the history of the province in terms of our response to devastating floods caused by Climate Change.

Following ravaging floods over the past three years, all three spheres of government have been working together to build permanent houses for the victims of floods.

In particular, with eThekweni being the worst affected municipality, we have accommodated more than 4000 families since 2022 in rented flats known as Transitional Emergency Accommodation (TEAs).

This follows the closure of all community halls that accommodated flood victims.

The current rental burden for TEAs is R128 million every 12 months. However, we wish to announce that with the three interventions being strengthened, we are going to save R66 million.

These interventions are the following: -

1. Relocation of victims to new houses in Cornubia.
2. Relocation of victims to the newly acquired and renovated Montclair Lodge.
3. Relocation of victims to TEAs located in Cornubia.

All TEAs outside of eThekweni have been closed, with victims now living in their permanent houses.

About 17 houses were handed over to families in Copesville, Pietermaritzburg.

In addition, 37 houses were handed over to families in Illovo.

From Monday, May 18, 2026, to Friday, May 22, 2026, we will hand over 113 houses in Cornubia to families currently residing in TEAs located in the following areas: -

1. Mahatma Gandhi – Point in Durban,
2. Sydenham: O'Flaherty Road
3. Dassenhoek
4. Ntuzuma

The four mentioned TEAs will be closed, with four others set to close by the end of June 2027.

Importantly, we will no longer accommodate victims of floods in privately owned TEAs.

In this regard, 104 families will be relocated to the newly refurbished Montclair Lodge by June 2026.

We bought Montclair Lodge from Transnet with R33 million.

Critically, plans are underway to complete 450 more houses in Cornubia by the end of March 2027.

Together with the Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Cllr Cyril Xaba, we wish to express our appreciation to the national minister of Human Settlements, Thembu Simelane, for the support.

The National Department has appointed a contractor to build 500 temporary units in Cornubia.

Critically, we could have paid R1,6 billion to build houses for the victims in the rezoned land owned by the state and the land under Amakhosi.

Instead, around R400 million has been set aside to build houses in Cornubia where there is bulk infrastructure.

Finally, through the #NenzaLaEzweni operation executed by an elite investigation team within the Department of Human Settlements, we will come hard against rogue elements found selling these houses to anyone, including illegal foreigners.

The Departments of Health, Social Development, and Education are working together to ensure that these relocations proceed smoothly, with services adjusted accordingly.

There is a team of senior managers appointed to coordinate scholar transport to ensure that learners are able to attend school uninterrupted. Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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