

Schools still awaiting aid

THOBEKA NGEMA

thobeka.ngema@inl.co.za

SCHOOLS damaged by the storm in October last year, as well as schools affected by inclement weather before the storm struck, are still undergoing repairs.

A year ago, it was reported that 42 schools in KwaZulu-Natal had been affected by the storm, with nine of those high schools.

Yesterday, Department of Education spokesperson Kwazi Mthethwa told the Daily News that more than 350 schools had been damaged.

He said the affected schools were still being fixed, and that the department was receiving funding from national departments and others who were willing to intervene.

The Department of Public Works was also helping to fix the schools.

“In the meantime, we provided mobile classrooms so the process of teaching would continue,” Mthethwa said.

“Some schools were being built at the time of the storm and this had to be delayed to prioritise the October storm damage,” he said.

He said they sent people to check on the progress made, and received a report every month.

“It’s a huge exercise,” he said. “But schools are open and matric exams are starting tomorrow (today). No school will report that there is no space or room for exams to be written.”

The uMlazi district was the hardest hit in the provincial department districts, with a total of 24 schools damaged.