

■ RELIEF

# South Coast still needs urgent help after damage from floods

**KAREN SINGH**

TWO weeks after devastating floods claimed the lives of 71 people and destroyed homes, roads and infrastructure in KwaZulu-Natal, relief organisation Gift of the Givers says people still need help, especially on the South Coast.

The organisation's Dr Imtiaz Sooliman said the number of people affected was much higher than origi-

nally thought.

"More and more are coming forward, and it's genuine because we send our people to check," said Sooliman.

He said Port Shepstone, Umzinto and Ifafa had "massive numbers" of affected people.

"Yes, Durban had huge damage, but in terms of the number of people affected it seems to be Port Shepstone and Umzinto. We also got calls from other parts of Durban we didn't know

about, like Mayville and Bayview."

Sooliman said they had identified Port Shepstone, Mariannhill and the Bottlebrush areas as having the biggest need for houses.

"We've set aside funds to build 80 homes in the Bottlebrush area at a cost of R25 000," he said.

Sooliman added that once the land had been identified by the municipality and Department of Human Settlements, the project would begin.

"Winter is coming and they need shelter. We need to get them in their houses as soon as possible."

Mbulelo Baloyi, spokesperson for the Department of Human Settlements and Public Works, said land in the Bottlebrush area had been identified to accommodate the building of houses being offered by Gift of the Givers.

Sooliman said that if there were still people who needed help, they could call the toll-free number 0800 76911.