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Project handovers and launches in Jozini and Nongoma herald new era

Core service delivery programmes resume after months

AFTER almost a four-month lull in the day-to-day core business of the Department of Human Settlements – owing to the pressing need to attend to the aftermath of the devastating April and May floods – service delivery in areas less affected by the disaster has resumed.

The April and May floods saw the department's focus sharply directed to areas like Ugu, uThukela, uMzinyathi, King Cetshwayo, Ilembe, uMgungundlovu Districts and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality – the epicentre of the disaster that left thousands homeless and saw hundreds of lives lost, with scores still missing.

With most of the rehabilitation and rebuilding work in progress, including the building of more than 1 400 TRUs and the closing of some mass care centres where flood displacees had been sheltered, the department felt it was in a better position to resume other service delivery initiatives in the less affected districts.

In September, KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba officiated at three project handovers and launches in the Zululand and uMkhanyakude districts. Among these was the launch of the Ndumo Rural Housing Project in Jozini Local Municipality. This R65-million project is anticipated to benefit more than 1 000 local people.

The MEC also handed over phase one of the oPhuzane Rural Housing Project (the first 300 units) in eDumbe Municipality, while simultaneously launching phase two of the project in Ward 8. The two phases have cost R90 million, with 600 families set to benefit.

During the activities of Public Service Week in late September, Dr Mahlaba also launched phase two of the

Khokhwaneni Rural Housing Project in Nongoma Local Municipality. This R44-m project is set to benefit 300 families in wards 4 and 6 of Nongoma Municipality.

Mahlaba said the three project handovers and launches in Jozini and Nongoma Local Municipalities heralded a new era. The department had resumed its core service delivery programme of housing provisions after months of solely focusing on flood relief and rehabilitation.

Further housing project launches are planned for October in Madundube in KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Ilembe District on the North Coast, and in KwaNzimakwe in Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality in Ugu District on the South Coast.



In the past two months, MEC Mahlaba has resumed the department's core mandate of housing developments, following the earlier focus on the rebuilding process in the aftermath of the floods. Housing project launches and handovers have taken place in Ndumo, eDumbe and Nongoma.