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MEC addresses housing concerns

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MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Siphonkosi Nkosi, promised to address the lack of commitment from government to keep to their plans of building homes to curb the frustrations of cramped living.

Addressing residents of Ward 68 at the Austerville Community Hall in Wentworth, on August 7, Nkosi appealed to those who have invaded the decanting units at Percy Johnson and Alabama roads to go back to their homes. Empathetic towards the

plight of impoverished families who illegally occupied the decanting units on July 28, the recently appointed MEC said he would make good on governments promises and vowed to fast track the completion of the housing projects which have been approved.

He added that 160 one-bedroom flats will be demolished and 22 new flats will be built, replacing the 160.

The balance of the homes will be built in the land at the area called the Arc, a temporary housing facility developed by the Department of Human Settlements and Public Works.

“The building plans have been done and are circulating for approval. In August, a service provider will be finalised and work can begin. We have identified areas, earmarked for temporary units,

which will be used for decanting. A total of 201 homes will be built,” said Nkosi.

The invasion of the decanting units has highlighted the cramped and unhealthy conditions in which residents in Wentworth have been living under.

Residents were given the opportunity to engage with Nkosi and reiterated the empty promises which never materialised and further explained that the previous housing projects have been met with dissatisfaction.

Pensioners added that they have had to fork out money to repair their homes after the refurbishment of flats built in a previous project and told Nkosi and his panel about the unhealthy living conditions due to sewage problems and poor workmanship.

MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Siphonkosi Nkosi, addressed Wentworth residents at Austerville Hall.