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ANC turning blind eye to growing slum

OVERSIGHT inspections by the DA in Bellair, eThekweni, have revealed shocking conditions including dilapidated and uninhabitable shacks that have turned part of the suburb into a slum.

The oversight – which comes after numerous complaints from Ratcliffe Drive residents – has revealed that there are some people living rent-free and without utilities on properties owned by KZN's Department of Human Settlements.

This has allegedly been going on for as long as 10 years. KZN's Department of Public Works is supposed to be the custodian of these properties.

One of the houses visited by the

DA was in a terrible state, with various shacks added to it. The property is surrounded by refuse and occupants have to suffer the indignity of relieving themselves in the bush nearby which has caused a stench in the area.

The tenant claims that he obtained a property lease from the Department of Human Settlements more than a decade ago and that despite his requests to purchase the property, officials did not come back to him. As a result, he continues to live there for free.

On another Ratcliffe Road property,

the DA found that the occupant had put up illegal structures and was operating a business from the premises.

KZN's Taliban faction ANC-run departments of Human Settlements and Public Works' failure to monitor these government-owned properties has resulted in a growing slum. It is unacceptable that surrounding rate-payers should have to live with this.

The failure has also resulted in a loss of revenue to these departments. While thousands of people struggle to pay for their homes and utilities, these individuals are being allowed to

live rent free and even steal electricity.

Recently, the DA highlighted the issue of government owned properties in Ulundi being illegally occupied and the significant financial loss to the Department of Public Works. The burning question is: How many more government owned properties are being illegally occupied? And how many are "legally" occupied – for free?

The DA expects answers from KZN Human Settlements and Public Works MEC, Siphon Nkosi, and has written to him requesting a full investigation into Ratcliffe Drive and other government owned properties.

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