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Title: Hijacked municipal owned buildings under scrutiny

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Main: Human Settlements and Public Works MEC, Sipho Nkosi, and eThekwini Deputy Mayor, Councillor Zandile Myeni, conducting building inspections with officials. Inset: Dilapidated and abandoned buildings have become a haven for illegal occupants and illegal activities

Municipality conducted an in loco inspection of two buildings in the Durban Central Business District (CBD) recently.

Cited as an eyesore in the CBD, the hijacked government and municipal-owned buildings, which serve as unlawful dwelling spaces for some occupants, was condemned by MEC Nkosi, who said that some of the buildings posed a serious health hazard. According to MEC Nkosi, the buildings, which have become a playground for illegal activities and criminals, are on his department's list of priority issues to be tackled.

He said that his department had five dilapidated and abandoned buildings within the Durban CBD, two of which were illegally occupied. "Whether the buildings will be sold or leased and whether the illegal occupants within the buildings will be relocated to safer accommodations, is yet to be decided," said the MEC.





He was joined by Deputy Mayor of eThekwini Municipality, Councillor Zandile Myeni, who said that the Municipality is striving to get rid of the old, dilapidated buildings that have become an evesore in the municipality and 'eradicate' the illegal activities that occur within them.