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700 fire victims homeless

Two hundred informal dwellings were razed to the ground and over 700 people were displaced following a devastating fire that ripped through the Archary Road Informal Settlement in Clairwood, last Friday. Despite a prompt response by the eThekweni Fire and Rescue Emergency Services, strong winds impeded firefighters from containing the blaze, resulting in all the informal dwellings being completely destroyed. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported. On Monday morning, KwaZulu-Natal premier, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, and MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Sipho Nkosi, visited the area to assess the damage, express solidarity with affected residents, and coordinate immediate relief efforts, as well as long-term recovery plans. The team also informed the fire victims that various government departments such as Home Affairs, Social Development, and South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) have been mobilised to provide assistance in recovering lost documentation. "The impact on the residents and the community at large is severe, and the disaster team is assisting the displaced residents. The government has mobilised resources to provide



KZN premier, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, and her team, visited the area to assess the damage caused by the raging fire.

vide emergency relief to those affected. Shelter, food, and other essential supplies are being arranged for displaced residents," said the premier. She also met with local authorities and emergency services to coordinate a comprehensive response plan. Speaking at the walkabout, MEC Nkosi said that the national department of Human Settlements had been alerted of the Clairwood disaster. While the eThekweni Municipality speaker, Thabani Nyawose, added that the municipality had located land on which to resettle the fire victims, however, he couldn't mention the location fearing it would be invaded. In response to this crisis, local organisations have stepped up to provide much-needed support to the displaced residents by donating food, water, clothing and other essential items. However, due to the scale of the disaster, more donations are urgently needed to help the affected families rebuild their lives. Members of the public are asked to extend their generosity and compassion towards others during these trying times by donating essential items that would help the families. Donations can be dropped off at the boxing club on Tara Road.