



**Publication:** Daller Express - Main  
**Title:** Illegally occupied houses become an eyesore  
**Publish date:** 15 Sep 2023  
**Page:** 4

**Reach:** 1794  
**AVE:** R 137.17  
**Author:** Dan Mdluli



## Illegally occupied houses become an eyesore

**Dan Mdluli**

The DA in Limpopo is calling on the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Nkakareng Rakgoale, to urgently intervene regarding the illegal occupation of the department's houses in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

A recent oversight inspection of the houses, that are illegally occupied and poorly maintained, highlighted the need to improve the department's management of

its assets.

Risham Maharaj, the DA Limpopo spokesperson, indicated that the poor state of the housing units has also been raised by numerous complaints from residents who claim that some of the houses have become drug dens.

The illegal occupants are not paying rent and are also robbing the municipality of rates and taxes. "The housing units are overcrowded, and some occupants have made illegal building alterations and

erected illegal structures to accommodate more people.

**The illegal occupants are not paying rent and are also robbing the municipality of rates and taxes**

These houses are meant to be a source of much-needed revenue for the department, but are instead being left to deteriorate, be

vandalised and occupied illegally," added Mr Maharaj.

The DA stated that it has written to the MEC to confirm whether the department has an accurate asset register of all its properties and how it intends to mitigate vandalism and illegal occupation of the department's buildings in the future. It wants the department to explain if any rental agreements exist with the occupants and who is responsible for the maintenance of the houses.