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HEAVY rains that hit parts of eThekwni causing damage to infrastructure on Tuesday came as a setback on efforts to bring back normality to communities that were recovering from the April 2022 floods. Inanda north of Durban was hardest hit. | DOCTOR NGCOBO

SETBACK

Storms have reversed flood restoration

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THE ANC in eThekwni region says the heavy rains that affected parts of Durban on Tuesday have reversed the gains that had been made over recent months in restoring the lives of many people hit by last year's floods.

Heavy rains and strong winds battered parts of northern Durban, especially Inanda, causing massive damage to houses on Tuesday.

ANC eThekwni region spokesperson Mlondi Mkhize said they had been inundated with calls for assistance from the affected communities, and commended the work done by eThekwni Municipality staff, the private sector and individuals who had offered assistance to the affected communities.

"Once again, the people of eThekwni are picking up the pieces of what they have lost following a ravaging tornado which accompanied heavy

rains and strong winds," said Mkhize.

He noted how a number of leaders, including eThekwni mayor Mxolisi Kaunda, Public Works MEC Siphon "KK" Nkosi and Human Settlements Minister Nkhensani Kubayi, had visited the affected areas as part of assessing the damage and determining the help needed. According to the spokesperson, Tuesday's rain was a setback when considering that eThekwni was still recovering from the floods that affected different parts of Kwa-Zulu Natal in April last year, and mainly the eThekwni region.

"Although we have seen the building of houses, and restoration of water, electricity and repairs to damaged socio-economic infrastructure, we know that the recent disaster has reversed the gains we have made," said Mkhize.

He said governing party activists would continue to work with government staff, private sector and individu-

als to ensure that relief aid went swiftly to those in need.

Tuesday's downpour came as MPs were on a fact-finding mission to determine how money meant for relief efforts has been spent. This is after Auditor-General Tsakani Maluleke told MPs that Kwa-Zulu Natal had spent 4% of the money meant for relief aid.

Meanwhile political parties, including Abantu Batho Congress (ABC) and the DA, have extended messages of support to the affected communities.

Leader of ABC and former eThekwni deputy mayor Philani Mavundla said he had been disappointed to learn of more devastating rains.

The DA's Martin Meyer said Tuesday's rains showed that global climate change was having a major impact, not only around the world, but in KZN, adding that it was critical that the government, along with our international partners, did more to combat the impact of this.