



Publication: Post, The - Main

Title: 40-year wait for government houses

Publish date: 31 Jan 2024

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## 40-year wait for government houses

IT COULD take up to 40 years before the housing backlog in KwaZulu-Natal

the nousing backlog in kwazulut-vatar is cleared. Mbulelo Baloyi, spokesperson for the KZN Department of Human Settlements, said there were between 700 000 and a million people waiting for houses in

kZN Department of Human Settlements, said there were between 700 000 and an million people waiting for houses in the province. A pavershree Padayachee, the South African Human Rights Commission (Schaller) and the province of the African Human Rights Commission (Schaller), said: "We have a manager foot in the province of the African Human Rights Commission (Schaller), said: "We have a manager to housing, which are currently under investigation. "In terms of section 26(1) of the Constitution, everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. The state is obligated to take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right."

Baloyi said the backlog was mainly due to more people migrating from rural areas to urban centres, seeking economic opportunities.

"As alluded to somewhere, trying to end the backlog is akin to 'shooting a moving target'. The ongoing migration to urban areas and other economic landwertently creates pressure for more affordable housing near workplaces and other social amenities.

"Statisticians often say to entirely wipe out the current backlog it could take anything between 30 and 40 years."

Baloyi said despite the challenges, they had been making strides to upgrade informal settlements are the direct result of the increasing rate of urbanisation and are responding in a systematic way as it is a national priority.

"We have been using different policy instruments, like rural housing, Greenfield Breaking New Ground urban Greenfield Break

projects, rental and social housing and Serviced Sites programmes to address these challenges. We also remain committed to following the Global Action Plan Framework on Informal Settlements and Slums which was launched in October 2022." In said.

Baloyi said that during the past financial year, 10 255 houses were built.

"In addition there were about 4 599 serviced sites that were made available and a further 3 362 housing opportunities were achieved in the form of title deeds being issued, rectification of pre-1994 housing stock and maintenance, bringing the total of housing opportunities were achieved in the form of title deeds being issued, rectification of pre-1994 housing stock and maintenance, bringing the total of housing opportunities to Is 216? he said.

Mandla Nsele, spokesperson for the Thekwim Municipality, said there was a knew of the said of th

comprises 64% of the overall housing backlog.
"Compounded with weak legislation to assist landowners in securing land, the lack of suitable and developable land for projects, lack of resources, funding

and bulk infrastructure, have resulted in a rising backlog. In such a context, the current delivery model for formal housing is deemed unsustainable.

"Given the weaknesses of the current delivery model, a new approach to upgnading of informal settlements is being pursued by the city.

"The new approach focuses more on basic services and socio-economic well-being as opposed to a policy that focuses solely on providing top structures. It aims to reach out to as many practical services, instead of allowing households to wait indefinitely for any form of intervention," he said.

Marlaine Nair, DA KZN spokesperson on human settlements and public works, said as the population increased, so did the need for housing.

"People are desperate for housing. However, while defaulting contractors continue to do departmental work, thousands of people grow increasingly tired of waiting and start building their own shacks – often on unsafe land.

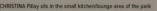
"We desperately need a power of the contraction of the people first and delivering on promises. The current five-year parliamentary term has seen four different human settlements and public works MECs in KwaZulu-Natla Lach brought in, in a last-ditch effort to rescue these critical departments.

"Regrettably, the performance within both of these departments has only

in, in a last-ditti-vastat, Each prought in, in a last-ditti-vastat in rescue these critical departments. Regretably, the performance within become these departments has only become the second of the departments has only become the maximum budget is spent, underperformance increases. People will have an opportunity this next election to vote in a government that will make the change that's needed," she said.

Thokozile Gumede, IFP KZN spokesperson for human settlements, said to combat the backlog there was a need for tural development and job creation. "People who are seeking green pastures so that they can care for their fam-







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## 'We are living in harsh conditions'

"collapsing" and a failing sewerage system.
Christina Pillay, 81, shares a two-room park home with her daughter Rosanne Singh, 47, son-in-law, and 12-year-old grandson.
Singh said they were told that it would take six months for the repairs to be completed at the flats.
"But nine years later we are still waiting to go back to our flat.
"While we are grateful to have a shelter, how much longer are we expected to wait to have a proper roof over our heads?
"My son sleeps on a couch in the

ilies and themselves leave their homes and come to the city, only to find that there are no opportunities. They cannot return home and end up living in infor-mal dwellings.

to be on rural development, which will

decongest urban areas.

"There also needs to be job creation so people can have a stable income to afford proper housing.

"There is also the issue of corruption,

which is rampant. As we head towards the elections, people need to start think-ing about who are the servant leaders – the people who want to be in power not for their own gains, but to serve the people," she said.