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# 150 CBD HOMELESS HURRY TO SHELTERS AS EVICTION LOOMS



TO BE REMOVED: Structures on street

HUNDREDS of homeless people who had been squatting on the streets of Cape Town's CBD have moved into the City's Safe Spaces, as court-sanctioned removals loom.

Earlier this month, the Western Cape High Court granted a final eviction order to remove homeless people from several areas including along Buitengracht Street, FW de Klerk Boulevard, Foregate Square, the CBD's taxi rank, Foreshore, Helen Suzman Boulevard, Strand Street, Foreshore/N1, Virginia Avenue and Mill Street Bridge in the city.

The City of Cape Town said yesterday over 150 people living at City-owned sites have accepted their offer of dignified transitional shelter at safe spaces.

A total of 127 *mense* will

BY BYRON LUKAS

willingly move to the newly-constructed Ebenezer Safe Space, which has 300 beds, while another 26 have opted to move to Culemborg Safe Space 2.

Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis said these people will have access to medical care, social workers, substance abuse treatment, family reunification services, Expanded Public Works Programme work, and personal development programmes to help them leave the streets for good.

During the week of 5-9 August, the City will support the voluntary relocations of the homeless to safe spaces.

By 12 August, plans will be prepared to evict any

remaining illegal homeless people from the various locations.

According to the court order, the City, with assistance from SAPS, will have the authority to remove structures if occupants fail or refuse to leave the locations.

Chairperson of the Homeless Action Coalition, Nodana Hadebe, said they are deeply concerned about the impending removals.

Hadebe says: "Our thoughts are with those affected by this situation, particularly those who are refusing to take up the offer of safe spaces."

"We urge the authorities to reconsider their decision and explore alternative solutions that prioritise the well-being of vulnerable members."