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MANAGEMENT from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), in partnership with O.R. Tambo District Municipality and King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality in Mthatha, handed over 20 Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) and household relief items to families affected by floods on 10 June 2025.

They also honoured non-profit organisations and swimmers who assisted victims in various ways.

According to the DBSA, this initiative forms part of the DBSA O.R. Tambo Disaster Intervention Programme, aimed at restoring dignity and providing safe, habitable accommodation to displaced families in the area whilst long-term reconstruction efforts continue.

Lunga Schoeman, Programmes Manager for Corporate Social Investment (CSI) at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), said they were marking the completion of a long process of support for O.R. Tambo District Municipality and King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Local Municipality. He explained that the DBSA supports municipalities in various ways, and when the disaster struck, they contacted these municipalities to ask how they could assist in recovery efforts.

"We also offered our support to build 20 TRUs for people who lost their homes during the disaster. These are elderly people, some living with disabilities, and others who have large families and are unemployed. Each home is furnished. It is not just a temporary structure. We wanted to ensure that we are giving them dignity and helping them return to homes that are safe and comfortable," said Schoeman.

He added that, for now, according to their agreement with the municipality, no additional homes are planned, but they remain open to offering further assistance if needed.

Schoeman said the DBSA is committed to development and building roads and hospitals, so it was

natural for them to partner with the municipality to support affected residents. "We are very proud of this project. It did not take long. We started preparations towards the end of June. We made sure that local people were employed to construct these units, and we completed everything within a short period of time."

Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Local Municipality, Councillor Nombulelo Sibeko, said the community was very excited about what the DBSA had done.

"I think these temporary structures are the last ones to be built in this area of Mayden Farm. The DBSA has given us 20 fully furnished TRUs. What was very touching was that they also awarded certificates, including to two swimmers who helped rescue people from the water during the disaster. Some victims had been relocated to rescue centres and were homeless, so we are truly grateful," said Sibeko.

She added that, so far, there are 193 temporary structures in total: 20 provided by the DBSA, 152 by the Department of Human Settlements, and 21 by the National Government. Sibeko confirmed that they still hope to continue building more shelters for people living in danger zones. "Some residents are still in danger zones, whilst others are staying with relatives. We want all of them to get help. We submitted a list of 1,093 people. We believe that as more resources become available, the government will continue assisting us. We have already identified another piece of land from the Department of Public Works at Old Nkululekweni. If we receive more shelters, we will build them there," she said.

Community committee member, Thembeke Nombali-Madzidzela, said they were grateful for the DBSA's help. "They have shown us love because they made sure that these shelters even have beds, so that people can sleep comfortably. A bed is very important because when you want to rest, that is where you go," said Nombali-Madzidzela.



Councillor Nombulelo Sibeko (Member of the Mayoral Committee from KSD Local Municipality), community rescue swimmers Thandeka Nkomonye and Sizwe Madikizela, and Lunga Schoeman (Programmes Manager, Corporate Social Investment from Development Bank of Southern Africa). PHOTO: BABALWA NDLANYA