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Lodge to serve as temporary shelter

MEC for the KZN Department of Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma, has reiterated the stance of the department that the remaining batch of the flood victims will be housed at the Montclair Lodge and Cornubia's temporary residential units from December to January 2026, while waiting for the completion of their permanent houses latest June 2027.

Duma's call comes amid public outcry over the relocation of flood victims to Montclair Lodge, with residents expressing concern about the strain this will place on the area's already deteriorating municipal infrastructure.

Duma was speaking at the handing over function of houses for flood victims in Copesville, Pietermaritzburg, last week.

The total of 1 200 houses will be built in Cornubia for flood victims while 113 families will take occupation of their permanent houses in December.

Another 692 flood victims will take occupation of their permanent houses by December next year.

The department said all privately owned Transitional Emergency Accommodations will be closed on or before December 31, 2026.

KZN MEC for Public Works, Martin Meyer, and the leadership of the DA held the meeting with the community in Montclair on August 18.

Deputy provincial leader for the DA, Sithembiso Ngema, said the meeting was a feedback session about the concerns raised by the community.

Ngema said the main objective of the meeting was to address all the issues that arose following the department's announcement to buy the lodge for R33 million.