



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES EH01/2023

ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY HOUSING RESPONSES FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND BACKYARDS AFFECTED BY FIRE AND FLOODS

1. PURPOSE OF THE DIRECTIVE

- 1.1. Households residing in informal settlements are often faced with various challenges arising from the fact that these areas are prone to disasters which make them more vulnerable once they are affected by emergency housing situations.
- 1.2. Although the Emergency Housing Programme does not require declaration of a disaster for any intervention to be undertaken, the general practice regarding interventions has often been limited to develop Temporary Residential Units (TRUs). As Informal settlements are unplanned and mostly established in less favourable conditions, the TRU is not the appropriate instrument to intervene during housing emergency that affect a portion or part of the informal settlement where households can be able to rebuild or resettle back in the same area.

- 1.3. In addition, there is currently a gap in government intervention programmes aimed at providing support to informal settlements affected by fire or natural disasters. This leaves these communities without support and no option but to rebuild their lives on their own. These are generally extremely poor and vulnerable communities, and this policy vacuum puts them at a further disadvantage once affected by fire or natural disasters.
- 1.4. Lessons learnt during the various emergency housing incidences that occurred in 2022 provided a lens to examine the current practice and the turnaround time for implementation of responses. A confluence of these lessons highlighted the importance of diversifying emergency housing interventions so that households are provided with needed relief urgently. Recently, Rental Assistance Scheme has been deployed in eThekweni, however this approach is not suitable in all circumstances. More important experience is the material supply for residence of informal settlements that was also piloted in eThekweni to address households that were affected by floods. This approach could be adopted to provide quick turnaround whether the aim is to relocate or resettle households.
- 1.5. Therefore, the Ministerial directive contained herein is aimed at enhancing the implementation of emergency housing policy and programme by providing added response to enhance the menu of interventions that could

be provided to households residing in informal settlements and backyards that find themselves destitute because of fire and floods. It provides a framework that will serve as a basis for intervention in support of households affected by emergency housing situation whether a disaster is declared or not.

- 1.6. The directive is for providing material to households residing in informal settlements and backyards that find themselves homeless because of fire and/ or floods. This directive must be read together with Emergency Housing Programme contained in the National Housing Code of 2009.
- 1.7. The directives are applicable to Provincial Departments and Metropolitan Municipalities.

2. NATURE OF THE DIRECTIVES

2.1. Description of the intervention

- 2.1.1. The intervention is only for rebuilding temporary structures not for provision of a permanent solution. This is meant to provide immediate relief during a time of dire need to the communities residing in informal settlements and backyards that found themselves homeless because of fire and other emergency housing situation.
- 2.1.2. The basic premise is centred on the provision of building material and rebuilding by affected households within 24 hours of the clearing of the affected site or of

alternative land for relocation being found. If ready-made temporary structures can be purchased within the available budget per household, this would be permissible.

- 2.1.3. Should the province or metropolitan municipality choose to use Temporary Residential Units as a form of intervention, this directive does not apply. In such cases the programme on TRUs shall take effect.
- 2.1.4. A province or metropolitan municipality might utilise a building material voucher or directly procure the material for affected households.
- 2.1.5. As the required material is for temporary shelter, Alternative Building Technology (ABT) panels and conventional building material that are fire rated must be prioritised. This is important to mitigate the fire disasters that often result in loss of lives. It is also acknowledged that while working towards this, appropriate fire rated material for the purposes of this intervention might not be available in the market. NHBRC may be requested to assist in developing a list of providers or fire-resistant materials starting with areas that are more prone to fires.

2.2. Direct provision of material

- 2.2.1. When a province or the metropolitan municipality choose to procure material a catalogue of approved material must be compiled. Priority must be given to fire

rated material. Secondly, a database of locally based commercial material suppliers such as hardware shops, available in each town or city must be compiled using a direct request for registration.

2.2.2. The provider may be requested to supply the material when needed or the Province or Metropolitan Municipality might stockpile limited stock of material informed by the frequency of the emergency housing situation in the area. Although the stockpiling option may provide a faster turnaround time and convenience, there is a high risk of fraud and theft. However, the choice remains with the province or metropolitan municipality.

2.2.3. Alternatively, appropriate SCM processes for temporary houses or ready-made shelter to the value of R12 000 per family may be procured.

2.3. Provision of Building Material Vouchers

2.3.1. A database of locally based commercial material suppliers such as hardware shops, available in each town or city must be compiled using a direct request for registration.

2.3.2. Provincial Department or Metropolitan Municipality must enter into a supplier agreement.

2.3.3. A copy of the voucher (with serial number and other details) to be redeemed by the homeowner must be

issued to the preferred material supplier or ready-made structure supplier.

2.3.4. The material supplier shall be paid on receipt of the claim for the utilised vouchers.

2.3.5. If the rebuilding voucher is not utilised within 30 days, the homeowner shall forfeit the voucher.

2.4. Cost of the intervention

2.4.1. The cost of building material or purchasing a ready-made structure per household or family must be for a maximum of **R12 000.00** (twelve thousand rands).

2.5. Funding Housing Emergencies

2.5.1. Province and metropolitan municipality must budget or set aside 1% of the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) to facilitate a speedier process of recovery after an emergency housing situation.

2.5.2. Should these funds get exhausted before the end of the financial year, a request must be made to set aside additional percentage for funding from the Department of Human Settlements.

2.5.3. The utilisation of this fund as an intervention instrument for emergency housing situation for informal settlements or backyard dwellers is at the discretion of the province or metropolitan municipality.

2.5.4. These funds must be utilised to respond by providing material that will allow households to rebuilt or purchase ready made structures to respond to emergency housing situation.

2.6. Households that must benefit

2.6.1. Only households outlined in the Emergency Housing Programme must benefit from this programme.

2.6.2. Should there be illegal immigrants in the settlement, processes outlined in the Emergency Housing Programme shall prevail.

2.6.3. A database of households benefitting from this programme as well as the date of intervention must be compiled.

3. Management of Rebuilding Efforts

3.1. A province or metropolitan municipality shall manage all the rebuilding efforts and provide advice to the community to prevent future incidents. The prevention must include reblocking, fire safety measures and other community safety matters.

3.2. The municipalities shall continue its duties that include emergency evacuation, clearing of the site, etcetera.

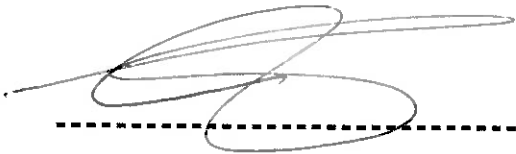
3.3. Enumeration of affected households must be undertaken as soon as they are on safe space.

4. Monitoring and reporting

- 4.1. Reporting shall be governed through the prevailing DORA report processes and when required.
- 4.2. Progress report on the rebuilding efforts shall be submitted to the Minister quarterly or when required.
- 4.3. Progress on repair work must monitored regularly.

5. Approval of the Ministerial Directives

- 5.1. These directives are approved by...



MS M T KUBAYI, (MP)

MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

DATE: 05/01/2023