



GAUTENG PROVINCE
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS

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Government relocating Khutsong residents affected by sinkholes to a safer place

The MEC of Human Settlements, Urban Planning and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lebogang Maile, urges the community of Khutsong in Merafong who are affected by sinkholes not to panic because Government is doing everything to address their plight.

In Khutsong, an estimated 20734 households are currently living in high risk dolomitic land. Of the 20734 households, an estimated 100 households are now at high risk with 41 to be relocated immediately. Plans have been put in place by the Government to ensure that the relocation of the 41 households is finalised within the next two weeks whilst a long term process led by the Housing Development Agency will ensure that all remaining households are relocated safely.

MEC Maile says the province subscribes to the value of democratic process and even though relocating the households to a safer place by government is not an option, consultation with all the affected parties and other key local stakeholders is important.

On the same note, MEC has cautioned motorists to avoid using Snake road at the corner of New Modder Street in the vicinity of N12 in Benoni, City of Ekurhuleni. He said that the problem is receiving necessary attention from the local authority and the province. The extent of the damage caused by the sinkhole is not known at this stage, but motorists may be putting their lives and that of other people in danger if they

continue to use the road. This is what MEC said, “The damage to the road by the sinkhole is extensive and it is now affecting a lane on the other side and since we don’t know what is happening underground, usage of the road may be risky . “If we don’t exercise caution, danger that could have been avoided is inevitable to an extent of sometimes losing lives.” The Head of Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management Centre, Dr Bongani Sithole says Geo-tech assessments are required to be conducted to first determine the extent of the sinkholes in both cases before rehabilitation can commence. “It is difficult to say how long the rehabilitation will take at this stage,” he said adding that it can take up to six months or even more for a proper work to be done.

Issued by the Department of Human Settlements, Urban Planning, and Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs.

For more information contact the department Spokesperson, Castro Ngobese on 060 997 7790 or Provincial Disaster Management Centre spokesperson Neo Lebethe on 079 490 8060