



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO FIRE DISASTER THAT LEFT FAMILIES VULNERABLE IN DUKATHOLE

WEDNESDAY, 01 FEBRUARY 2023 – Over 20 families were left homeless and frustrated last week following a blaze that ripped of shacks in Dukathole, an informal settlement in Germiston, Ekurhuleni.

The cause of the spark which left many shacks burnt beyond recognition remains unknown.

The affected families are currently living with relatives, friends, and neighbours whom most of them lost belongings such as identity documents, certificates, clothes, blankets, food, and furniture.

The Gauteng Department of Social Development in Ekurhuleni has on Tuesday visited the families and responded swiftly to the disaster through assessments and determination of services required for intervention.

According to Community Development Practitioner, Phindile Sibuyi, the Ward Councillors and Disaster Management teams have visited the area and assisted affected families with household utilities such as pots, stoves, plates, cups, bathing dishes and buckets.

“The Department, through its Community-Based Intervention Unit provided social relief of distress in a form of twenty food parcels and twenty blankets,” said Sibuyi.

She added, “The Department will further assist the families with full sets of school uniform and dignity packs and ensure that lost ID documents and birth certificates are replaced.”

“Officials from the Directorate Sustainable Livelihood in Ekurhuleni Region will do follow ups with the beneficiaries to ensure that they are linked to other sustainable livelihood services and graduate the families from their identified challenges,” concluded Sibuyi.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Social Development

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