



Storm conditions lay housing shortage bare on a cold, wet Mandela Day

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The Development Action Group (DAG) notes the sentiments shared by the Minister of Human Settlements, Hon. Mmamoloko Kubayi, yesterday, following the tabling of the adjustment budget for Human Settlements, Budget Vote 33, during which she indicated her firm intention to tackle the lack of housing in our country.

“We recently wrote to Minister Kubayi, requesting a meeting to outline some of the interventions that we think are key to unlocking access to adequate housing, that will undo spatial injustice, an apartheid legacy that is still alive today,” said Moegsien Hendricks, Executive Director of DAG.

DAG is also reaching out to engage the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Dean McPherson, as well as the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Hon. Velenkosini Hlabisa on interventions that it believes will greatly facilitate the delivery of adequate housing in key areas.

There is no silver bullet to solving the housing crisis in our country, which is why DAG is calling for cross-sector intervention that will address the lack of well-located, safe, and affordable housing, specifically in areas that are close to economic hubs of activity.

The ongoing adverse weather conditions highlight the plight of the poor, especially the many thousands who have been displaced by the storm weather that has been raging in the Cape over the last few weeks. It underscores the importance of building climate resilience, as we address the housing shortage in South Africa. Many people remain vulnerable to extreme weather conditions due to their poor living conditions.

On this cold and wet Mandela Day, felt particularly by those in the Western Cape area, the issue of displacement due to adverse weather conditions brings the housing crisis into sharp focus. The severe weather conditions have exacerbated the struggles of those already living in inadequate housing, and it is clear that immediate action is needed.

“We look forward to robust, impactful dialogue that will set us on the course towards climate resilience in South Africa. We need all parties to come on board and consider the research and evidence before making decisions that will help end spatial injustice, lack of housing, and vulnerability to adverse weather conditions,” Hendricks concluded.

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Media enquiries
Esther Schippers
Esther@dag.org.za

Anneke Burns
Publicist
071 423 0079
Anneke@abpr.coza / media@dag.org.za