

HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES

PREAMBLE:

The Emnambithi / Ladysmith Municipality falls within the rain belt and is prone to rain / wind storms during the months of September to April. During the past five years approximately 4000 households in the rural and urban areas have been affected. Due to the sensitive nature of the problem, Council made available an amount of R1 000 000-00 in the 2007/2008 Budget to address the plight of the affected communities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Housing assistance in emergency circumstances is a programme to be implemented by the Emnambithi / Ladysmith Municipality by direction of the Municipal Manager.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of this programme is to provide temporary assistance in the form of shelter, issue of materials to the affected families to restore their dwellings, and to repair / replace homes in a wide range of emergency situations of exceptional housing need.

This programme will apply to emergency situations of exceptional housing needs, such situations being referred to as “emergencies”, as defined below:

Definition of emergency housing circumstances

An emergency exists when the Municipal Manager, on application by the affected community member, through the Councillor, deems that person affected by the following owing to situations beyond their control:

- Have become homeless as a result of a declared state of disaster, where assistance is required, including cases where initial remedial measures have been taken in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) by government, to alleviate the immediate crisis situation;
- Have become homeless as a result of a situation which is not declared as a disaster, but destitution is caused by extraordinary occurrence such as flood, strong winds, severe rainstorms and/or hail, snow, devastating fires, earthquakes and/or sinkholes or large disastrous industrial incidents;
- Live in dangerous conditions such as on land being prone to dangerous flooding, or land which is dolomite, undermined at shallow depth, or prone to sinkholes and require emergency assistance;
- Live in the way of engineering services or proposed services such as those for water, sewerage, power, roads or railways, or in reserve established for any such purposes and who require emergency assistance;
- Are evicted or threatened with imminent eviction from land or from unsafe buildings, or situations where pro-active steps ought to be taken to forestall such consequence;

- Whose homes are demolished or threatened with imminent, or situations where proactive steps ought to be taken to forestall such consequences; or
- Are displaced or threatened with imminent displacement as a result of a state of civil conflict or unrest, or situation where pro-active steps ought to be taken to forestall such consequences;
- Live in conditions that pose immediate threats to life, health and safety and require emergency assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following principles are applicable to the Programme:

- Assistance to be provided under this Programme will only constitute the provision of temporary aid of a temporary nature. The one exception would be assistance with the repair or reconstruction of damage to permanent formal housing not covered by superstructure insurance.
- Assistance will be limited to absolute essentials. It will not seek to provide housing or engineering services commensurate with those that might have been previously enjoyed.
- A maximum amount of R5000-00 be determined for the purchase of material or an amount equal to the material required.
- That a service provider be procured to issue material to the affected households on receipt of an order from Council.
- A committee (assessment committee), comprising of the EMGT, MES, MPS or their representative be established to assess the damage and make representation to the SSPC and MCM for approval to repair the house.
- Municipal officials inspect the progress and provide guidance to the reparation of the house/s to ensure that the material is used to repair the damaged house.
- A report be submitted to EXCO on a monthly basis to inform them of the progress and expenditure to date.
- This programme does not serve to augment and supplement existing programmes, for instance, in the case of an officially declared disaster, interaction will occur with the disaster management structure in order to augment and supplement situations of exceptional housing emergency, this will in no way replace any of the functions performed by the disaster management structure, e.g. the provision of the tents where necessary or the supply of water by means of tankers, etc.
- The application with certified copy of ID must be lodged by the owner in an affidavit, approved by the Councillor and submitted to the EMGT to then submit to the Assessment Committee for submission to SSPC and MCM for approval.
- Only persons who earn less than R3500-00 per month will be assisted (authentic payslips or proof of unemployment from the Department of Labour be produced with application.)