

MEDIA ADVISORY ON THE CLOSURE OF TEMPORARY SHELTERS WITH REGARDS TO INCIDENTS OF XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE

02 July 2015

KWAZULU-NATAL Provincial Government and the City of eThekweni, has after a series of consultations, resolved that all elements of threats of violence and disruption of livelihood that led to the attacks of foreign nationals have all been dealt with and the situation has returned to normality.

Our assessment now, borne out of consultation with the local communities and the security agencies, indicates there is no further threat to life and property of foreign nationals.

These positive developments have led to a conclusion by government and eThekweni municipality that temporary shelter in Chatsworth has served its purpose and was no longer necessary. This temporary shelter had been erected during the upsurge of tensions and unfortunate resultant conflict.

This shelter was the only remaining shelter accommodating over 500 displaced foreign nationals. After the successful reintegration process and engagements with communities, many affected foreign nationals have since returned to the community. Others opted to be repatriated to their countries of origins.

Following the extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including foreign nationals, non-government organization and the United Nations, we have arrived at the conclusion that this shelter should be closed forthwith.

This position has been communicated to the foreign nationals who have been housed at this shelter and their governments. The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Executive Council, few days ago received a detailed report on the Chatsworth shelter that all outstanding issues would be finalised by 30 June 2015 with the exception of the conclusion of community dialogue sessions. These will continue in all Wards where those who had been displaced will be accommodated. The Executive Council also supported the move to facilitate all necessary logistics towards the closure of the shelter.

We are now starting the process of closing this shelter. Effectively this means that all services that have been rendered there including the shelter, supply of amenities and food will no longer be available.

However, the provincial government and eThekweni municipality remain ready and willing to assist those few remaining people with the process of reintegration to areas where they were before this conflict.

The communities in Greater eThekweni, where these foreign nationals were based before the conflict have indicated their readiness to assist with the process of reintegration.

Government would like to thank all stakeholder, including NGO's, private companies and individual who assisted us to provide shelter and comfort to the affected foreign nationals during this difficult period. Our province promotes peace, harmony and coexistence with all peoples of the world.

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