27 JULY 2022

**SAHRC COMPLAINT:**

**DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION INVESTIGATION AND ENGAGEMENT ON FLOOD VICTIMS’ RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Three months after KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) experienced severe flooding, hundreds of displaced people are still living in community halls, many of them under inhumane conditions. The information has come to light following a two-day oversight inspection by the Democratic Alliance (DA) in eThekwini.

The purpose of the oversights was to, amongst others, assess the living conditions of flood victims. What we found was beyond shocking with conditions at some of the halls completely inhumane. Not only are they poorly insulated, making it very cold particularly at night, there are also new born babies living in these halls – some of whom were even born there.

Other issues include a severe lack of basic facilities such as bathrooms, with people forced to bucket bath while some men are bathing in refuse areas outside. The halls are also massively over-crowded with as many as 400 people, posing a severe risk when it comes to easy infection of Covid-19 – which remains a very real threat.

Safety is yet another issue as unknown people simply walk in and out at some halls, while women and children in particular are not being protected. Then there is the increased likelihood of gender-based violence as men and women are made to share the same space. Not to mention the many students who are trying to study under extremely difficult circumstances.

As the DA in the province we are concerned that the residents of the halls and shelters are facing daily violations of their human rights. We therefore request that the SA Human Rights Council investigate the circumstances under which these people are having to live, and to make recommendations on ways to improve their living conditions, if not, in fact, to assist with meaningful interventions that will ensure long-term protection of these vulnerable people and their right to dignity and safety.



Francois Rodgers

Leader DA KZN

KZN Legislature