

## R150m plan for Ekurhuleni informal settlements

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***EKURHULENI member of the Mayoral Committee for Human Settlements Queen Duba says she will present a multimillion-rand plan to the council aimed at changing the face of 101 informal settlements in the metro.***

Duba says she will push for a resolution at the first council meeting of 2012 that R150-million be made available to her department to ensure that all informal settlement dwellers receive basic municipal services such as clean water, electricity and accessible roads for ambulance and police services.

The metro has 119 informal settlements and Duba said that in some cases communities would have to relocate.

About 93 650 households have been prioritised as needing urgent attention.

"Where the municipality does not have a plan for the area, where the informal settlement is on dolomitic or unsuitable land the community will have to relocate," said Duba.

"The informal settlement management plan is in view of the unique challenges that we face as Ekurhuleni of an influx of migration into the area because of its economic opportunities.

"It is a very frank plan that appreciates the fact that a large number of informal settlements will still be with us for a long time."

Duba said people had in the past been relocated from informal settlements to RDP houses, but they still returned to shack-dwelling because some of the shacks were close to jobs. Some did not need the RDP houses because they had houses in the villages.

Her department would ask the national Department of Human Settlements for additional money.

"To start off with, just to provide the basic services, I would have liked to have about R200-million.

"There is a grant that gets to us through the provincial department but we would like to engage directly with national," Duba said.

She said she would ensure that all monies spent would be accounted for in terms of how it benefited the community.

Duba is on a region-wide road show to engage informal settlements dwellers on her plan. She has already visited Thembisa and Vosloorus.