

NEWS

KZN housing project to build 1 500 homes for poor

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ABOUT 1 500 poor households in Impendle, west of Pietermaritzburg, are set to benefit from a R150 million housing project that will be unveiled today.

A total of 500 houses will be built in each of three wards, over a period of three years.

The project is being undertaken under the auspices of the KZN Department of Human Settlement, and will consist of 1 500 units in three massive housing projects. MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Ravigasen Pillay is expected to officiate at the launch.

The three housing projects are built under new departmental specifications that includes plastering of the external walls, electrification, as well as installing ceiling boards. The project is expected to offer

career opportunities for up to 30 young people in the area.

Human Settlements and Public Works spokesperson Mbulelo Baloyi said 30 young people, 10 per ward, will have the opportunity to enrol in the construction field, and will be able to follow one of three specialisations: carpentry, plastering or brick laying.

"They will do three months of theoretical studying and six months practical. Upon completion, the contractor will absorb them for the duration of the construction contract," said Baloyi.

He said the project will benefit people who earn less than R3 500 a month, and who are seeking a house.

"Priority will be given to those families whose structures are in a severe and dire condition," he added.

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