# Bid to cut housing backlog in KZN

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**THE department of human settlements in KwaZulu-Natal is scrambling to mend its image after evicting 58 families from a block of flats in Durban's Victoria Embankment, Westpoint Lodge.**

Yesterday, Premier Zweli Mkhize and human settlements MEC Maggie Govender spoke to hundreds of contractors on how to address the 900 000 housing backlog in the province.

They outlined measures to address the backlog, including the rooting out of shoddy contractors and ensuring that they spend the R11 billion allocated to housing.

Asked why plans were afoot to evict tenants at the 12-storey Victoria Embankment building despite yesterday's claims that there was a housing backlog, Govender said: "The occupants of Westpoint Lodge are not being evicted willy-nilly.

"While we sympathise with those occupants who will have to find alternative accommodation, our responsibility as the department is to ensure that we manage and administer government property responsibly and correctly."

Govender also pointed out that her department was faced with many projects where contractors delivered houses of poor quality.