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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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City to provide alternative housing for Madala Hostel fire survivors

The City of Johannesburg's Department of Human Settlements is working to secure temporary emergency accommodation for the nine people, including children, who were displaced by the fire that gutted part of Madala Hostel in Alexandra.

This was confirmed by the MMC for Human Settlements, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso, during his visit to the hostel on Wednesday (03 September 2025) morning. The fire, which broke out on Tuesday afternoon, destroyed four units in Block C5 and the communal kitchen on the fourth floor.

Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities were reported. Seven adults and two children lost their homes and belongings, including vital documents. The fire reportedly started in unit 33 while it was unoccupied. The cause remains unknown.

"Our fire emergency services responded swiftly, preventing the fire from spreading to the entire hostel. We are grateful that no lives were lost," said Cllr Mabaso.

He added that the City is exploring alternative accommodation options for affected families, while social relief measures are already underway. Support will also be provided to replace lost identification documents, and school-going children will receive assistance with uniforms.

Cllr Mabaso explained that the damaged structure forms part of a broader redevelopment plan. "An engineering report recommended the demolition of Madala Hostel. Work has already begun to prepare alternative structures for decanting residents," he said.

He further noted that council recently approved a hostel revitalisation report, which will now be submitted to the Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Tasneem Motara. The plan incorporates all three hostels in Alexandra into the Greater Alexandra Development initiative.

"The Housing Development Agency has been appointed to lead the redevelopment of Kwanobuhle Hostel. What we had been missing was a policy framework, and the report approved by council now provides that. Importantly, it carries the full support of hostel leadership," Mabaso said.

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