**ADDENDUM A – QUESTION 6, 7 & 8**

**(2) What support measures that are provided by (a) his Department and (b) each municipality in the province to (i) prevent and (ii) respond to informal settlements fires and (iii) support victims?**

(a)(i)(ii)(iii) The Department employs a partnership-based approach working with other spheres of government, sister departments, NGOs, tertiary institutions and other relevant stakeholders on various interventions to mitigate (prevent) fire risks, respond to fires and assist victims of fires within informal settlements.

The Department has been utilising its Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG), OPSCAP, and Emergency Housing Grant (EHG) to provide interim relief in the form of fire kits and relocation assistance to victims of fire disasters. Emergency Housing assistance has also been provided to families whose formal houses have been destroyed by fires and circumstances beyond their control.

The Department, in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch’s Fire Engineering Research Unit (FireSUN), has developed a report and guideline (2021) to improve fire safety in informal settlements, including fire safety interventions for backyarders.

(b)(i)(ii)(iii) Municipalities throughout the Province also provide the following fire-related assistance:

* Roll out of fire-kits and disaster-relief kits, blankets where possible.
* Roll out of emergency services, water tankers, and chemical toilets where appropriate.
* Allocation of municipal land were available for interim relief or temporary decanting purposes.
* Approved fire protection readiness plans.
* Review Disaster Management Plans.
* District Municipalities assist with ward-based risk assessments.
* Installation of smoke detectors pending funding availability.

Further to the support offered by the Department, The Department of Local Government (DLG) administers the Fire Brigade Services Act and associated legislation on behalf of the Western Cape Government and assists municipalities throughout the province by supporting and co-ordinating Fire & Rescue Services.

The DLG also supports the following activities:

* Reduce local risk through prevention and awareness.
* Improve local planning and preparedness.
* Improve the fire and rescue services’ capability to respond to all hazards.
* Improve the Fire Brigade Services' professional status.

END