

The Weekly

TORNADO HITS MELODING

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A roofless church ... The whole roof, windows and building structure was blown off the St John church

The Matjhabeng Local Municipality is struggling to come to grips with the aftermath of a flash storm that battered the Meloding area, damaging scores of houses on Saturday last week

Hundreds of people were left stranded after roofs, walls and windows were shattered by the storm that cut swathes across Koppie, Melody and Eureka Park, leaving residents to sift through the rubble in an effort to salvage what was left of their homes and possessions.

“This is a very big setback to the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, but ever since the tornado that lashed Ficksburg late last year, the Free State has put in place intervention measures to deal with such natural disasters,” said the Executive Mayor of the Matjhabeng, Sebenzile Ngangelizwe.

Ngangelizwe and his team visited the affected families in Meloding on Sunday, where they handed out food and blankets.

He revealed that the local authorities were currently assessing the extent of the damage and have already requested the provincial government to assist with the repairing of the houses.

Even though many properties in the area were destroyed, the police have reported no serious casualties. Those who have been affected by the storm have been instructed to register with their ward councillor, Pule Molelekoa, in order to receive relief.

One of the victims, Motshedisi Khasu of Eureka Park, was battling to come to terms with her ordeal.

“I was taking an afternoon nap with my children when it all started. As it intensified, it started ripping off the roof and scattering bricks everywhere. Everything happened so fast,” she told The Weekly.

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Khasu and her family, along with the other affected residents, were provided with medical assistance and trauma counselling by the Matjhabeng Local Municipality.

They were also provided with a tent to temporarily cover their house until the damage assessment team comes to repair their roof.

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