

Gauteng accused over shelters

02 October 2008

Namhla Tshisela

You were 'starving' foreigners

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) yesterday accused the Gauteng government of abusing humanitarian aid to force foreign nationals out of temporary shelters.

"We have been informed that food rations at the Klerksoord shelter were reduced to one meal a day today to force people to leave," said MSF programme director Jonathan Whittall.

The two remaining shelters in Ekurhuleni – Rand Airport and Boksburg – were dismantled yesterday.

The temporary shelter in Glenanda, south of Johannesburg, was closed on Tuesday.

Whittall said the Red Ants were called to evict about 400 foreign nationals at the Boksburg shelter.

He said the foreign nationals were forced to leave the sites after their tents were torn down while they were queuing for financial aid from United Nations agencies.


Residents at the shelters received financial assistance from the Jesuit Refugee Service and the UN Children's Fund to help them pay for alternative accommodation.

Gauteng provincial spokesman Thabo Masebe said: "All the people left voluntarily. Once people got money and food from the agencies there was no need to keep the shelters open."

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in SA (Cormsa) spokesman Duncan Breen said the government was obliged to continue providing services at the shelters until a further interim order by the Concourt.

Article Tools

 Print

 E-Mail

--oO Article End Oo--