

Gauteng camps to bite dust

15 August 2008

The Gauteng government will today dismantle six temporary shelters for displaced victims of xenophobia despite an application by advocacy groups to the Constitutional Court to keep the camps open.

"Nothing prevents us from going ahead with our plans to pull down the tents," provincial government spokesman Thabo Masebe said yesterday.

The Wits Law Clinic and the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (Cormsa) filed an application with the Constitutional Court asking for an order to halt the dismantling after the Pretoria high court dismissed the organisations' application for an extension .

A parliamentary multi-party task team has also proposed that the shelters remain open.

Duncan Breen of Cormsa said: "It would be in extremely bad faith for the sites to be demolished before any directions have been issued by the Constitutional Court." – Namhla Tshisela

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