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Court. Malema said the EFF was
salaries fighting for every South African
he still to have a good life and go to bed
People on a full stomach.

Minister reveals plan to counter housing backlog

SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

HUMAN Settlements Minister Connie September says she has come up with a plan that would deal with the housing backlog of R129bn over the next seven years.

September said yesterday her department would be able to mitigate the problem during this period.

The minister, who was replying to a written Parliamentary question from Cope MP Kenneth Sinclair, also said she was fixing the problem of rural housing to prevent urban migration.

A few weeks ago the Financial and Fiscal Commission said the housing backlog was still a huge problem in the country. It said the government would need R129bn to address the backlog in the next seven years.

The FFC also found that while there was a rapid rise in RDP houses in the early years of democracy the process of building houses has slowed down in the last few years. This was because of the shoddy houses that were being built, which forced the government to demolish them and rebuild them. This cost the state more money.

The government has said 20 000 houses would have to be rebuilt because of poor workmanship at the cost of R4bn.

The provinces that were mostly affected by this included Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The department also planned to take action against contractors and this would include recovering the money paid to them to build these houses.

The FFC said that since 1994 the government has built 3 million houses, but the figure could be higher today if there was no slow down in the process.

The process started to come down after 1999. But the government would need R129bn to fix the backlog problem by 2020.

Rural housing was very important in preventing more people flocking to the cities.

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