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**Cuba Gives Priority Homes Damaged by Tornado**

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Havana, Feb 21 (Prensa Latina) Still less one month after the devastating impact of a tornado in several Havana municipalities, the recovery of the damaged houses shows progress and continues as a priority, authorities quoted by the press stated on Thursday.

Several media publish a summary of the Council of Ministers meeting held on Wednesday to follow up the response to the January 27 tornado, led by Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, addressed the issue of housing.

The tornado damaged almost 8,000 houses, about 752 were totally collapsed after its passing through Diez de Octubre, Guanabacoa, Regla, Cerro and Habana del Este, the first three municipalities were severely hit.

According to National Civil Defense Staff head, Major General Ramon Pardo, about 640 people remain sheltered, because they lost all their material belongings.

Construction Minister (MICONS) Rene Mesa said that of 7,923 damaged houses, about 2,500 have been totally restored, while the 22 total collapses have been resolved.

Around 4,000 builders from several agencies are working on recovering houses, he said.

MICONS official Norberto Perez stressed that a strategy has been drawn up to deal with the construction of houses totally collapsed, which includes the definition of reconstructing 459 in the same place where they were before, placing 72 in new locations and 273 in adapted

buildings.

About 804 homes will be fit out, 52 more than the total collapses caused by the tornado, as of some families lived in overcrowding, he said.

Diaz-Canel called during the Wednesday meeting to maintain the pace of work until all problems caused by the phenomenon have been resolved.

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