

CAPRICORN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMEMORATES IDDR 2021

By Lebogang L Mosotho, disaster management officer, Capricorn District Municipality



The Capricorn District Municipality Disaster Management used October 2021 to commemorate the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) under the 2021 Target 6: Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.

The district's IDDR event theme is 'Substantially enhance District Development Model through adequate and sustainable support to complement District Disaster Management Programmes'. Tagline: #OnlyTogether #DRRday

The Capricorn District Municipality aligned its celebrations to the extension made by South Africa in the commemoration of the "Making cities resilient, My city is getting ready" as part of encouraging District and its local municipalities to do more in order to lessen the risk of anthropogenic disasters such as Corona Virus (COVID-19) impacting to its ever growing populations.

This year's IDDR is all about governance. You can measure good disaster risk governance in lives saved, reduced numbers of disaster-affected people and reduced economic losses. COVID-19 and the climate emergency are telling us that we need clear vision, plans and competent, empowered institutions acting on scientific evidence for the public good.

As thus the 2021 IDDR commemoration will be executed in a different manner in order to create awareness of COVID-19 and possible preventative strategies to combat the spread of the virus across the district. This will be done in line with the 2020 IDDR theme as guided by the 2021 Target 6 of the Sendai Framework.

International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction is held every October to celebrate how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness. Annually Capricorn District Municipality: Community Services (Disaster Risk Management Unit) commemorate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) to promote disaster risk reduction behaviour within its communities in the Capricorn District municipal area.

This was an ideal opportunity for the municipality to raise awareness within the Capricorn District municipal area in order to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction especially in remote and rural areas. This strategy is implemented to empower local government and other agencies to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Disaster risk reduction is the spectrum of activities ranging from disaster preparedness to disaster resilient, building practices that aims to limit the impact of natural and anthropogenic (man-made) hazards on communities.

Reducing mortality, reducing the numbers of people injured, displaced and left without a livelihood has never been more challenging given the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing climate emergency. After a year which, has so far seen almost four million deaths from the worst pandemic of the last hundred years, the world must realise the value of working together in multi-lateral institutions to ensure vaccine equity, now and in the future and a green, risk-informed recovery from COVID-19.

The goals and objectives of the event

- The Goal of International Day for Disaster Reduction 2021 provided:
- An advocacy platform to highlight best practices and examples of district cooperation that have a positive



impact on the lives of people who live in disaster-prone parts of the district ie reducing the numbers of people affected by man-made and natural hazards.

- Promote and encourage events at local community level to mark the implementation of the Sendai Framework with a focus on district cooperation and Target F, highlighting challenges faced with the COVID-19 pandemic
- Highlight achievements of district cooperation in delivering clear benefits for risk management in developing local communities
- Produce a short report on Target (F) implementation based on progress reports by District through the Sendai Framework Monitor
- Organise a rolling series of webinars, 'Only together...can we save the planet', hosted by district and local offices, showcasing successful partnerships in national, provincial cooperation, including local communities
- Launch International Day website and social media campaign

Expected outcomes

- Greater awareness of the importance of governance, multilateralism and political commitment (District Development Model) to managing and reducing disaster risk
- Greater awareness of the importance of including considerations for disease outbreaks including pandemic risk management in district strategies for disaster risk reduction
- Greater awareness of the Sendai Framework and a key target with a 2020 deadline
- Greater focus on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Greater understanding of how extreme weather events and biological hazards and risks are raising the bar for disaster risk reduction and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Public discourse to promote attitudinal and behavioural change towards disaster risk management

Build-up activities

Capricorn District Municipality held the 2021 Commemoration of International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) through a career exhibition guidance at Cooperspark Community Hall in Cooperspark Village in Blouberg Local Municipality on 5 October 2021.

The event was attended mostly by learners from Mosonya High School and outlined various career opportunities and bursaries available in line with the different subject streams in high school.

Phumeza Tyali from National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) in her message of support indicated that the NDMC offered bursaries to learners to study disaster management and appealed to learners to take advantage of the opportunity.

The same sentiment was shared by Dan Matsapola from South African National Space Agency who added that learners need to marry their books and pass both Maths and Science with high marks in order to follow



a career in aeronautics and aerospace space research and there were bursaries available.

"It is very rare for people in the rural area to get an opportunity like this. Our children, based on the presentations made here today, will now see the importance of taking education serious", said Principal Makgamatha from Mosonya High School thanking Capricorn District Municipality for organising the IDDR in the form of career exhibition in their village.

All presenters emphasised the importance of education, especially Maths and Science. Institutions that contributed to the success of the exhibition were Capricorn District Municipality Municipal Health and Fire Services, Department of Social Development, South African Police Service, Department of Health - Helen Franz Hospital, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), national, provincial and district disaster management, University of Venda, Blouberg Municipality, Rosebank College, Capricorn Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College and Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA). The Department of Health Capricorn District took the opportunity to vaccinate people at the event.

Main district event held at Ga-Maribane, Polokwane

On 12 October 2021, Capricorn District Municipality held its main district event at Ga-Maribane in Polokwane. Speaking at the event, Cllr Betty Kgare, Member of Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Community Services, said, "I call on all members of the public to ensure that they fully participate in programmes that work towards ensuring that communities are protected from disasters and that the risk of disasters are mitigated".

Other stakeholders such as the Department of Health, Department of Local Economic Development Environment and Tourism, Molemole Traffic, Molemole Environmental Management, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) gave messages of support.

Another IDDR event will be held virtually on 26 October 2021 with the schools that participated in CDM's disaster competition. Build up events were held at Ga-Molepo, Cooperspark and Mamaolo in October 2021. 📍