

IDDR AND CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM HELD IN EKURHULENI



Dr Elias Sithole and Shadi Tsebeyhy



Speakers at the IDDR and Climate Change Symposium held in Ekurhuleni

Gauteng Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), together with the City of Ekurhuleni Disaster Management (DEMS), held a symposium on 9 November 2019 focusing on climate change in commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) at the Boksburg Civic Centre in Ekurhuleni.

Programme director for the event, Bafana Mazibuko of Ekurhuleni DEMS, provided background to the symposium and IDDR, the effect of climate change on disasters and introduced the speakers.

Ekurhuleni MMC for Community Safety, Councillor Vivienne Chauke, highlighted the importance of committing to the ideals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 and detailed the

four key priorities. Councillor Chauke added that Ekurhuleni signed the pledge to the 2010 - 2020 World Disaster Reduction Campaign, 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready' on 7 November 2015. "We further pledged a commitment to the 'Ten-Point-checklist for Making Cities Resilient'. With the signing of the pledge, the City of Ekurhuleni is politically committed to the six enabling conditions for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster resilience", she added. "Whilst the disaster management practitioners are implementing the requirements of the Disaster Management Act, we should do an oversight whether they are in line with the requirements of the Act and the Sendai Framework."

Dr Elias Sithole, Head of the Gauteng PDMC, said that there is definite need

to successfully integrate disaster management policies as part of the Gauteng Province's strategy on disaster risk reduction. He emphasised the importance for the need to build capacity as well as for emergency preparedness. "Disaster risk reduction must be included in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of each city," said Dr Sithole. "Gauteng Province spent R400 million on post-disaster recovery since 2010. This could have been spent developing resilient communities and preventing displacement," he added. He also mentioned the recent study commissioned by Gauteng Province to determine the flood-prone areas within the province.

Is'haaq Akoon of Ekurhuleni's Department of Environmental Resource Management provided an interesting presentation on Ekurhuleni's perspective on climate change and its proactive approach in building resilience. He highlighted the key environmental risks in the metro and the city's strategies and commitments to ensure a sustainable and resilient city. Akoon emphasised the importance of resilience mainstreaming within all departments.

The South African Weather Service's (SAWS) Elizabeth Webster explained impact-based forecasting, warnings and severe weather warnings, detailing international developments and providing information on the progress of SAWS' local Impact-Based Severe Weather Warning System pilot projects. "The Impact-based Severe Weather Warning System will change the Early Warning System to a user-orientated, risk-based



Is'haaq Akoon of Ekurhuleni's Department of Environmental Resource Management and Shadi Tsebe of DMISA

EKURHULENI APPOINTS NEW

DIVISIONAL HEAD: DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HEAD OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Ekurhuleni has appointed Erika Swart as its new Divisional Head: Disaster Management and Head of the Disaster Management Centre. The centre is situated in Bedfordview, Ekurhuleni. After seven years of absence from the disaster management fraternity, Erika Swart returned to her previously held position in the City of Ekurhuleni, after serving more than thirty years in disaster management. She has been appointed from 1 September 2018 as Divisional Head: Disaster Management and Head of the Disaster Management Centre.

She left her previously held position in 2011 and has now taken up her present position. During her absence, she dedicated her time to assist the Southern Business School as a lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction. She underwent several courses to align her for this task.

Swart has worked in the local government disaster management arena since 1981 and served in several positions since then. Presently she is a Fellow of the Institute and a master's graduate of the University of the Free State. The DMISA fraternity knows her as the conference coordinator and councillor of the Institute.

In order to address the disaster management challenges in the City of Ekurhuleni, the City's top 16 hazards were identified during a risk and vulnerability assessment of the city. The Ekurhuleni Disaster Management Centre, with the assistance of the relevant departments, identified risk mitigation, preparedness and prevention plans and activities in order to address these priority hazards.

Swart took over the position from Mr Bafana Mazibuko, acting Divisional Head:



Disaster Management and Immediate Past President of the Institute.

We wish Erika Swart well in her endeavours! 🇿🇦

weather warning system adapted for South African conditions”, said Webster.

Gauteng CoGTA's Nareema Solomons presented on behalf of Lindokuhle Ngubane of the Gauteng PDMC on the Provincial Climate Change Mainstreaming Framework. The presentation featured the legislative frameworks for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in South Africa and detailed the Gauteng Provincial Government's policy on CCA and DRR and the research project to integrate CCA and DRR. “Successful implementation of this framework will depend on executive and political ownership. A key factor to the success of the framework is a high degree of cooperation amongst the spheres of government as well as political support,” she said. “The mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into disaster risk reduction in the Province should theoretically allow for the gradual implementation of climate change response measures within existing budgets balancing incremental costs with the economic, environmental and social values produced, realising no-regrets interventions, rather than necessitating additional dedicated climate change budgets in an already resource-scarce municipal context”, she concluded. 🇿🇦



City of Johannesburg disaster management volunteers joined the organisers



City of Johannesburg disaster management team