



UPDATES AND NEWS

FROM THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) continues to execute its legislative mandate of promoting an integrated and coordinated system of disaster management amongst national, provincial and municipal organs of state, statutory functionaries and other role players involved in disaster management.

This journal provides me with the opportunity to provide a high level update to stakeholders on the activities of the NDMC for the period under review.

Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief towards Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

South Africa heeded to the call of the three countries, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, for humanitarian assistance and other technical support since they have been affected by the Cyclone Idai. To this end, a National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) Priority Committee has been established to coordinate the relief efforts, co-chaired by Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) through NDMC and the South African Police Service (SAPS). The committee meets daily.

The following activities are put in place:

- A Joint Operation Centre (JOC) is activated in the two countries ie Malawi and Mozambique. The South African deployed members are part of the JOCs.
- Zimbabwe was affected recently and a team has been deployed to assist with the Search and Rescue from SAPS.

Malawi relief actions

Air support and personnel has been deployed through South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to assist with rescuing the displaced people and distribution of relief materials. South African Military Health Services assisted with some of the medical supplies at their disposal and treatment of patients. An estimated number of 25 members in the team have been deployed in Malawi comprising professional nurses, doctors, paramedics, rescuers and environmentalists, amongst others.

Mozambique relief actions

The country is the worst affected. An estimated number of 43 medics and Air Force crew members have been deployed and the numbers changes depending on the need. South Africa

deployed air support to rescue trapped displaced and injured people and distribution of relief materials. The South African Military Health Services is currently assisting with medical treatment of injured displaced persons.

An estimated amount of 500 displaced people have been rescued.

Two field hospitals were projected to Mozambique at Beira Airport to assist with treatment of patients and also serve as an onsite health facility since there are too many injured people and outbreak of diseases have been projected.

Zimbabwe relief actions

The Zimbabweans made a request for various supplies and most urgently 10 cadaver dogs for recovery activities. South Africa responded positively to assist Zimbabwe.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) is coordinating the donations from various contributors. Border security is monitoring and reporting the movement statistics within the borders shared with South Africa. So far the movement is normal. South African deployees are working with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are in Malawi and Mozambique.

South African Weather Services provides weather forecast to update the priority committee.

The NDMC, through the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), has deployed an official to assist with disaster coordination. ▶



Dr Mmaphaka Tau

weaknesses in fighting disasters. He stated that systems must be created in Gauteng that all disaster management departments respond immediately across borders in the province. "There should not be any red tape or administration procedures preventing disaster management departments in Gauteng in assisting and saving lives," he said. He also made a presentation on how technology can be used in fighting crime and disasters. All other presentations at the conference were well received.

With a well-structured organisation, a clearly defined mission and vision, competent staff, clear protocols and guidelines for operational execution, we are definitely in a better position to respond to the challenges that await us. I would like to thank the conference coordinator, Mr Pat Adams, for his hard work and dedication throughout.

In closing, I leave you with the words of John Wesley:
Do all the good you can

By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can
God bless you all.

Thank you

Shadi Tsebe
DMISA Councillor: Journal and marketing



Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe



South Africa heeded to the call of the three countries

► **National drought coordination**

The drought conditions persist even though rainfall has been received within the north eastern parts of the county during early summer. The three provinces, Eastern, Northern and Western Cape, are still reeling from drought with pockets within other provinces.

The DCoG through the NDMC continues to coordinate stakeholders and response measures for drought in the country particularly through the National Joint Drought Coordination Committee (NJDCC). The provincial disaster management centres and their joint operation centres continue with the drought coordination in their respective provinces in collaboration with the relevant sectors, municipalities and private sector, eg non-governmental organisations. The objectives of the NJDCC are as follows:

- To coordinate all the response and recovery plans from all relevant sectors in an effort to develop a coherent, comprehensive, substantive and practical drought response plan.
- To effectively gather all relevant information to ensure positive communication on the state of South Africa pertaining to current drought situation and build resilience among our communities

The NJDCC has terms of reference in place that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all the above mentioned task teams. The functions of the tasks summarised as follows:

- **National Intervention Task Team:** Facilitating and coordinating the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of impact of the interventions implemented in provinces.
- **Funding Task Team:** The task team provided assistance with the analysis and assessment of all the projects as presented by the organs of state for funding. Robust discussions are held to ensure proper allocation of funding to projects and avoid duplications.
- **National Communications Task Team:** Ensured the development of the communication strategy that was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) and the communication of key messages on drought and water scarcity.
- **Humanitarian Task Team:** To ensure proper planning and distribution of verified and tested products to the communities.
- **National Food and Nutrition Security Task Team:** Assists with the food security status and crop estimates to understand the food security status in the country and intervene in affected provinces. The risk profile modelling team assists with the weather forecast and modelling, including the impact on agricultural production and awareness to the farmers.

The National Joint Drought Coordination Committee meets on a monthly basis to report, monitor the implementation of drought intervention measures and evaluate the impact of the interventions made to the affected communities. The NJDCC reports and make recommendations to the Inter-Ministerial Task Team, which is chaired by the Minister of Cooperative Governance.

Drought response and relief

The Department of Cooperative Governance, through the NDMC, facilitated and coordinated drought relief measures by mobilising and allocating resources since 2013/14. It is important to note that drought conditions became extremely felt in 2015 and to date, some parts of the country are reeling from drought.

During 2017/18, the country experienced rainfall, which brought relief to the northern parts of the country, however the three Cape provinces were still affected by drought and as a result, they declared a provincial state of disaster. An amount of R433,5 million was allocated and transferred to Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces to address the drought situation.

In February 2018, the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre reclassified the drought disaster as a national disaster. Subsequent to the reclassification proclamation, in March 2018, the Minister of Cooperative Governance declared a national state of disaster as a result of drought. The decision was based on the fact that the drought situation persisted and there were pockets of drought in other provinces. In the 2018 Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance stated that “a provisional allocation of R6 billion has been set aside in 2018/19 for several purposes, including drought relief and to augment public infrastructure investment.”

The National Joint Drought Coordination Committee, through its Funding Task Team, facilitated and coordinated the applications for funding by the affected sectors and municipalities. In October 2018, the National Treasury announced an amount of R3,2 billion allocation from the R6 billion provisional allocation for drought intervention measures. The funds were allocated to the following sectors, ie Water and Sanitation, Environmental Affairs, Agricultural sector and the water services authorities.

It is anticipated that the allocated funds will go a long way in alleviating the effects of the prevailing and future drought conditions and the negative effects of climate change and variability being experienced by the country. The NJDCC will

always be on the ground to monitor the implementation of the intervention measures and evaluate the impact thereof.

Coordination of disaster resilience building

The Department of Cooperative Governance, through the NDMC, is now focusing on the resilience phase in addressing the drought situation. In this regard, the NJDCC broadened its focus beyond the continual monitoring of relief projects to include focused projects, funded from the allocations of the respective organs of state, in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) aimed at the identification and implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction projects.

The resilience-building phase of the drought is currently the key focus for all sectors. It is significant for government to put efforts that will ensure investment in disaster risk reduction measures that include climate change adaptation and resilience building measures. In order to facilitate this process, the NDMC, in consultation with all sectors and stakeholders represented at the NJDCC and the National Disaster Management Advisory Forum (NDMAF), developed the 'Draft Drought Resilience Operational Plan 2018/19'. The plan aims to facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of risk reduction (mitigation and climate change adaptation) measures by members of the NJDCC in order to reduce the impacts of the drought hazard, to promote livelihoods restoration needs of the affected communities and promote recovery and resilience in key affected sectors. In this regard, each organ of state effort will be focused on resilience building programmes to mitigate towards the drought shocks.

Impact-based Early Warning System for Severe Weather

The project is currently at an advanced stage with several pilot tests already completed in the different provinces. Both winter and summer rainfall areas were subjected to pilot tests using empirical information from past severe weather events to ensure that actual weather related consequences were factored into the testing. The disaster management practitioners and the weather forecasters have been working closely with the different provinces and the various stakeholders to ensure that all elements of severe in their respective areas are considered and planned for in the final product.

The Value Chain Early Warning Technical Task Team (TTT)

The Technical Task Team (TTT) currently enjoys the support of several key departments involved in the current drought management process. These include the Council for Geoscience, the Council for Agricultural Research, The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the South African Weather Services (SAWS). Each organisation participates in one of several work streams to supply data and information related to their core mandate and together information is shared over several important themes. The objective of the formation of this task team is to ensure that important information is processed and shared in order to inform important disaster risk related discussions on a national scale.

Partnerships and collaborations

The Early Warnings and Capability Management Systems unit in the NDMC is currently finalising several partnership and collaboration agreements with various research entities. These include a renewed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and The South African Weather Service (SAWS). This will further cement these organisations together for not only a closer working relationship but also to conduct new product development on other thematic areas common to them. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CSIR's Natural Resources and Environment division and the National Disaster



Air support and personnel has been deployed through South African National Defence Force (SANDF)

Management Centre will ensure that a new integrated drought monitoring and forecast platform be developed with relevant indicators in order to serve as an early-warning mechanism for South Africa for the hazard related to drought phenomena.

Report on the Sixth Annual National Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar

The National Disaster Management Centre has hosted its Sixth Annual National Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar from 27 February to 1 March 2019 in Tzaneen, Mopani District in Limpopo Province. This seminar was attended by over 150 delegates ▶

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- ▶ representing municipal fire services, industrial fire services, academia, key sector departments, etc. This seminar has once again revealed that fire risks and losses continue to rise with devastating impacts on our communities particularly those most vulnerable to fires. It also became clear that effectively responding to the challenges posed by fires require multi-sectoral and multi-level engagements and strategies. The signing of a Fire Safety and Prevention Pledge by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Rakgoale, served to energise the local political leadership to continue to support the fire services in general and fire safety and prevention in particular.

While the seminar noted that significant progress has been made particularly with NDMC driven skill-based capacity building and the review of the legislation, a lot of work still needs to be done for us to significantly tackle our complex fire problem. The challenges posed by the growing wildland-urban interface require us to integrate our plans to reduce fire risks and to effectively respond to such fires when they do

occur. Similarly, the seminar demonstrated the importance of partnerships between government and the private sectors. This is necessary as it creates shared value while contributing to resilience building in identified communities. In this regard, all delegates were encouraged to explore possibilities of partnering with business organisations operating within their jurisdictions. As part of this seminar, fire safety inspections were conducted at a number of key and strategic facilities in the area. Inspection reports, which will include key recommendations, will be shared with all inspected facilities and follow-ups will be initiated to ensure and monitor compliance going forward.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mmaphaka Tau (PhD)

Deputy Director-General (Head):

National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)

Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) 🇷🇷



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