



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Departement van
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en Tradisionele Sake

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COGTA CAUTIONS COMMUNITIES AGAINST WINTER SEASON FIRES

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has cautioned communities to use fire with precaution during the winter season. The Nkangala and Gert Sibande Districts in Mpumalanga are the coldest areas with temperatures below a 1 degree celsius during the June and July season.

MEC for COGTA Mr Mandla Msibi says fire must be used with precaution to prevent the potential loss of lives, injuries and damage to property. "The use of household fires in areas prone to the cold weather is on a peak during the June-July season. Apart from cooking, fire is a critical component of keeping households warm during the cold weather. We urge communities to ensure that all fire facilities are switched off after use to prevent potential human and property hazards," Mr Msibi cautioned.

Mr Msibi further appealed to parents not to leave children without supervision with braziers. "Fire fatalities and severe injuries are prevalent in areas prone to the cold weather. Our focus is currently on the COVID-19. However, the potential loss of lives, injuries and damage to property due to fire, must not be a blind spot and we all have the responsibility to prevent it. We must apply the same amount of energy of preventing the spread of COVID-19 to prevent human tragedies," he warned.

Mr Msibi says the prevention of fire outbreak is the responsibility of all communities. He advised communities to adhere to the following:

- The fire management regulations when burning fire breakers in the farms.
- Butt cigarettes after smoking.
- Mark properties for easy access by the Fire Services in case of emergencies.

Mr Msibi advised communities to report emergencies to the Provincial Disaster Toll free number: **0800 202 507**.

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs,

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