



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Litiko
Lekubusa
ngekubambisana
netebuholi bendzabuko

Departement van
Koöperatiewe Regering
en Tradisionele Sake

umNyango
wezekuBusa
ngokuHlanganyela
neeNdaba zamaKhosi

MEDIA RELEASE

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DATE: 24 JANUARY 2021

COGTA CAUTIONS COMMUNITIES IN MPUMALANGA TO BE CAREFUL IN THE MIDST OF THE HEAVY RAIN

Several Municipalities are experiencing a heavy rainfall this Sunday. The wet weather is expected to continue beyond Monday as predicted by the South African Weather Services (SAWS). Nkomazi, City of Mbombela, Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities in Ehlanzeni District have received heavy rains. In the Nkangala District, Emalahleni, Thembisile Hani, Emakhazeni and Steve Tshwete Municipalities are also affected by the heavy rain. In Gert Sibande, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme has recorded a heavy rain fall.

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga says although the province has survived the Tropical Cyclone Eloise, which has hit neighbouring Mozambique, however, the province remains on high alert. MEC for COGTA, Mr Mandla Msibi says the Department will continue to monitor the weather patterns to respond to potential life threatening emergency cases. "All our disaster management systems remain on high alert. Our roads are slippery and we urge road-users to drive carefully. Those in the proximity of rivers and dams must monitor the water levels to evacuate," Mr Msibi explained.

Mr Msibi further cautioned communities not to risk their lives by crossing bridges and walking under power lines. He further warned against the circulation of fake news that may cause panic and anxiety. Apart from the contingency plans, Councillors, Community Development Workers (CDWs) and the Disaster Toll Free Number have been activated to respond to distressed communities. Although no major incidents have been reported since the heavy rain started, sporadic cases of damaged houses have been reported at Mkhuhlu in Bushbuckridge Municipality.

The Department's Disaster Toll Free Number is **0800 507 202**.

Ends.

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