

File: LG 11/2/3/2/K29  
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**MINISTER QR DYANTYI**

**THE PREMIER**

**REPORT TO CABINET: REQUEST FOR THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER REGARDING THE COMPOUND FLOOD, WHICH OCCURRED IN THE WEST COAST ON 6 – 11 JUNE AND 25 – 26 JUNE 2007.**

I support the attached draft resolution.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the infrastructural and agricultural damages regarding the compound flood (heavy rain and gale force winds) which occurred in the West Coast District Municipal area on 6 – 11 June 2007 and on 25 – 26 June 2007.
- 1.2 To reach consensus and support the declaration of the West Coast District Municipal area as a disaster area.
- 1.3 To request assistance for the provision of emergency funding and the request for the declaration of a local disaster as outlined in:
  - Annexure A: A detailed damage assessment report;
  - Annexure B: West Coast District Municipalities request; and
  - Annexure C: Draft letter for the declaration of a local disaster area.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The first flooding incident was characterized by a cold front which passed through the Western Cape since Wednesday, **6 – 11 June 2007** and resulted in heavy rain and flooding in Saldanha Bay, Cederberg, Matzikama, Bergrivier and Swartland Local Municipal areas, as well as the West Coast District Municipal area. This extreme weather event was caused by a slow moving cut-off low pressure system. Very cold and wet conditions were experienced which resulted in prolonged heavy rainfall over the West Coast District. The second incident occurred on **25 and 26 June 2007** also

resulting from a cut-off low followed by gale force winds affecting the West Coast District Municipal area.

- 2.2 The areas where most damaged occurred were in low-lying areas where the storm water drainage systems could not cope with the exceptional downpours. All the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's (DWAFF) dams like the Clanwilliam Dam were overflowing during the course of the incidents but none of these dams were at risk for possible dam breaks. Many roads were damaged and subsequently closed throughout the areas. Municipalities together with the assistance of emergency services assisted in the rescue, evacuation, sheltering and feeding of hundreds of people of which were mostly from informal settlements, low cost housing communities and farm areas, providing them with temporary shelter, drinking water, food, blankets and clothes. Most of the people affected returned to their homes within a few hours. It has also been confirmed by the Emergency Medical Services that they've conducted quite a number of rescue operations which resulted in an increased motor vehicle accident rate, specifically in the West Coast District over this period. A total of three people were killed and several injured as a result of weather related motor vehicle accidents. A goods train carrying coal, derailed just outside Moorreesburg resulting in one person seriously injured and three sustaining minor injuries.
- 2.3 The management of this event reflected a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach in the coordination of the above-mentioned incidents. Joint Operation Centres (JOC's) were established at the West Coast District Municipality, as well as local municipalities within these areas. The following role-players were involved and co-operated in the operations of the JOC's, namely Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Provincial Traffic, Provincial Departments of Local Government and Housing, Social Development, Transport and Public Works, Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF), South African Weather Services (SAWS), South African Police Services (SAPS), Transnet Freight Rail, as well as various NGO's.

### **3. PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE TOGETHER WITH THE WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES INTERVENTION**

- 3.1 The Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre's (PDMC) mitigation sub-directorate issued early warnings to all affected Municipalities and the preparedness and recovery sub-directorates responded and assisted specifically the West Coast District Municipality with the management of the joint operational centre during the first flooding event. The Minister of Local Government and Housing, Mr Dyantyi, visited the joint operational centre on **8 June 2007** where he was briefed on the status in the West Coast. A disaster assessment session was facilitated on Wednesday, **13 June 2007**, where it became apparent that it was still too early for Municipalities to have assessed losses as some areas were still inaccessible, whilst a delegation led by the Premier, Mr Rasool, visited the affected area on Thursday, **14 June 2007**. The Department of Social Development distributed 1 325 food parcels and 5 300 blankets to affected communities across the district as part of their social relief policy.
- 3.2 While Municipalities were in the process of verification and also recovering from the first flooding episode they were confronted with the second flooding episode followed by gale force winds which occurred on **25 – 26 June 2007** in the West Coast District Municipal area. This incident indicated that much more damages and losses were evident in the West Coast District. Municipalities were requested by the Department of Local Government and Housing through its PDMC to assess and

verify damages. The assessment and verification process were subsequently finalised taking both events into consideration. This information was then submitted at a meeting which was held in the West Coast on **12 July 2007**.

**4. ESTIMATED LOSSES**

**4.1 COMBINED VERIFIED LOSSES FOR THE COMPOUND DISASTER EVENT AS REPORTED BY INSTITUTIONS / MUNICIPALITIES**

Total verified losses taking into account both flooding events, as reported by the various Municipalities, as well as Provincial and National Departments including state-owned enterprises amounts to **R127 379 751.62** of which a budgetary shortfall of **R69 618 537.36** is evident.

The attached Annexure A illustrates a detailed version of the losses incurred, giving an indication of what of these costs were insured and what were not-insured also giving an indication of firstly the variance and secondly the amount which the various institutions / municipalities are able to contribute towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damages / losses incurred. Total losses for **national departments** amounts to **R1 050 000.00** of which a shortfall of **R1 050 000.00** are being reflected. Total losses for the account of **provincial departments** amounts to **R38 676 831.00** of which the losses for road infrastructure, **R9 400 000.00** are reflected as a loss as well as variance, as a result of maintenance funds which are to be re-prioritised for flood damage reconstruction. **Municipal losses** amounts to **R48 588 997.62** of which a shortfall of **R48 171 512.36** are reflected. These losses are evident as a result of municipalities' capabilities of dealing financially with two flood events in such a short period of time.

The table below provides a concise indication of estimated losses reported by the organisations / municipalities in the assessment which are as follows:

<b>PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS</b>	<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>VARIANCE / SHORTFALL</b>
Department of Transport and Public Works	R9 400 000.00	R9 400 000.00
Department of Agriculture	R28 379 831.00	R10 997 025.00
Department of Social Development	R411 000.00	
Department of Education	R486 000.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>R38 676 831.00</b>	<b>R20 397 025.00</b>
<b>NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS</b>		
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	R1 050 000.00	R1 050 000.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>R1 050 000.00</b>	<b>R1 050 000.00</b>
<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>		
Matzikama Municipality	R4 490 000.00	R4 170 000.00
Cederberg Municipality	R26 163 100.00	R26 163 100.00
Bergrivier Municipality	R13 221 826.00	R13 221 826.00
Saldanha Bay Municipality	R1 511 960.00	R1 511 960.00
Swartland Municipality	R3 202 111.62	R3 104 626.36
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>R48 588 997.62</b>	<b>R48 171 512.36</b>
<b>STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES</b>		

ESKOM	R3 800 000.00	
TRANSNET FREIGHT RAIL	R35 000 000.00	
TELKOM	R138 923.00	
SANRAL	R125 000.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>R39 063 923.00</b>	<b>R0.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>R127 379 751.62</b>	<b>R69 618 537.36</b>

## 4.2 OVERVIEW OF LOSSES INCURRED

Losses incurred in the Matzikama, Saldanha Bay and Swartland local municipal areas seems to be minimal compared to the damages / losses incurred in the Cederberg and Bergrivier local municipal areas. The verified assessments, indicate that most of the losses incurred are municipal infrastructure, damaged roads and houses as well as agricultural damage.

It is evident that in most incidents / disasters the inhabitants of informal settlements, farming communities and people residing in low cost housing developments, are normally more vulnerable because of the location of their settlements as well as the material used to construct these dwellings. They normally suffer most losses as their informal dwellings as well as belongings are not insured which makes it almost impossible for them to recover from their losses.

It is also important to note that intangible losses such as the social and psychological effects as well as health risks etc. as consequences of this event were also not included in the mentioned cost-estimates.

## 5. DECLARATION OF DISASTER

5.1 As an alternative measure in dealing with the major flooding incident by the appropriate line departments, the declaration of a disaster in accordance with the Disaster Management Act (Act 57 of 2002) could be investigated. The Disaster Management Act makes provision for the declaration of a local disaster. Although not a prerequisite, the declaration could assist access to central contingency funding, as to allow the applicable national / provincial and municipal department's budgets to be supplemented. The process for a local disaster is as follow:

- District Municipal Disaster Management Centre to request the declaration of a local disaster;
- Provincial Disaster Management Centre to recommend / not recommend the request for a local disaster declaration; and
- National Disaster Management Centre to confirm the local disaster declaration through a classification process. The outcome of this classification process will determine the declaration of a local disaster, which has to be published in the provincial gazette.

5.2 During a Mayoral Committee meeting of the West Coast District Municipality, which was held on **18 July 2007**, the District Municipality decided to declare the West Coast a local disaster, based on the following:

- The disaster affects the district as a whole;
- The disaster causes or threatens to cause and disruption of the life of the community at large; and

- The Municipalities alone are unable to deal with the disaster effectively.

5.3 The following Local Municipalities consulted, supported the declaration of the West Coast District Municipality as a local disaster:

- Matzikama Local Municipality;
- Cederberg Local Municipality;
- Bergrivier Local Municipality;
- Saldanha Bay Local Municipality; and
- Swartland Local Municipality.

5.4 In the light of the above it is recommended that the West Coast District Municipal area be declared a local disaster area, as it will be impossible for this District to recover from the disaster effectively without any financial assistance.

## 6. RECOVERY PLAN

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre managed to compile a comprehensive recovery plan. The plan serves as an intervention plan in order to co-ordinate the reconstruction and rehabilitation within the disaster stricken area within the West Coast District.

<b>SHORT TERM - RECOVERY PLAN</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementing agent</b>
1. Preliminary assessment	West Coast District Municipality
2. Verification of damages/losses	West Coast District Municipality
3. Submission to cabinet on preliminary damage assessment	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
4. Establish <i>ad hoc</i> flood recovery committee	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
5. Verification of damages/losses	Prov. and Nat. Departments
6. Declaration of a local disaster	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
7. District debriefing with relevant role-players	West Coast District Municipality Dept of Local Govt and Housing
8. Identification of internal resources	Provincial Treasury
9. Provision in Mun Budget adjustment processes	All Municipalities
10. Prov Dept of Agriculture to approach Nat Dept of Agriculture for funding	Dept of Agriculture
11. Nat line Dept's and SOE's to fund own operations	DWAF and SANRAL
12. PDMC to approach NDMC for possible funding	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
13. Presentation to Provincial Cabinet on progress	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
14. Identification of development initiatives to decrease vulnerability	Nat and Prov Departments
15. Identification of mitigation projects	Prov Departments
16. Drawing up of a business plan per project	Nat and Prov Departments
17. Monitor interventions to ensure inclusion in IDP's	Municipalities
18. Preliminary report to the NDMC	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
19. In-house debrief	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
20. Submit lessons learnt and final report to the NDMC	Dept of Local Govt and Housing

<b>LONG TERM - RECOVERY PLAN</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementing agent</b>
1. Meeting of <i>ad hoc</i> recovery committee	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
2. Monitoring the implementation of recovery projects	Dept of Local Govt and Housing
3. Monitor spending of emergency relief funding	Nat and Prov Departments

**7. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

At this stage a crucial challenge is the inclusion of mitigation measures and risk reduction strategies when doing rehabilitation and reconstruction to ensure that the same infrastructure will not suffer the same or similar damages when exposed to the same phenomena. Another important aspect is the enhancement of sustainable development and the distinct relationship between disasters and development.

Other challenges at this stage is the appointment of dedicated disaster management officials on municipal level and disaster management co-ordinators per provincial department, the dissemination of early warnings to communities at risk and finally, but most importantly that the importance of valid and correct media liaison be nurtured.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the comprehensive damage assessment, it is recommended:

- 8.1 That the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, recommends the declaration of the West Coast District Municipal area as a local disaster area (Draft letter as per Annexure C);
- 8.2 That the Provincial Government of the Western Cape supports the request of the West Coast District Municipality to declare the West Coast as a local disaster, and that this request be forwarded to the National Disaster Management Centre for the disaster classification process;
- 8.3 If the declaration of a local disaster is supported by the National Disaster Management Centre, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape be provided with the necessary mandates to immediately engage with National Treasury via the National Disaster Management Centre in obtaining additional funding to counter the costs of infrastructural and agricultural damages; and
- 8.4 That the Department of Local Government and Housing through its Provincial Disaster Management Centre be mandated to assist the West Coast Disaster Management Centre with the co-ordination and facilitation of the recovery process.

**9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

No personnel implications.

**10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications as assessed and calculated by the various institutions and departments as well as municipalities reflected total losses of **R127 379 751.62** of which a budgetary shortfall in terms of non-insured losses for Provincial Departments and Municipalities amounts to **R69 618 537.36**, which will need to be funded to ensure the efficient and effective reconstruction and rehabilitation within the West Coast District. A verification process was done by the various departments / institutions and municipalities, taking into account the damages and losses of both disastrous events.

**11. PRIORITY CLASIFICATION**

Category of priority: B – Essential.

**12. OTHER DEPARTMENTS / INSTITUTIONS CONSULTED**

National Disaster Management Centre  
National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry  
Provincial Department of Agriculture  
Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing  
Provincial Department of Social Development  
Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning  
Provincial Department of Health (Emergency Medical Services)  
Provincial Department of Education  
Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works  
Provincial Department of Community Safety (Provincial Traffic)  
Provincial Treasury  
Department of the Premier  
West Coast District Municipality  
Matzikama Municipality  
Cederberg Municipality  
Bergrivier Municipality  
Saldanha Bay Municipality  
Swartland Municipality  
South African Police Services (SAPS)  
South African Weather Services (SAWS)  
Agri-Western Cape  
Eskom  
Transnet Freight Rail  
Telkom  
Sanral  
Various NGO's and church organisations

**13. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet takes note of the recommendations in paragraph 8.

Comments:

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that, in terms of Provincial Treasury Instruction 2.2.1:

- The Financial implications of the submission have been noted and funding is available;
- The submission complies with all applicable financial statutory requirements; and
- The submission is therefore in order.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**DATE**

Comments:

The Cabinet takes note of the recommendations in paragraph 8.

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**DATE**

Comments:

The financial implications have been noted.

**HEAD OFFICIAL: PROVINCIAL TREASURY**

**DATE**

Comments:

I concur with the legal contents of the memorandum.

**CHIEF DIRECTOR: LEGAL SERVICES**

**DATE**

Comments:

The contents of the memorandum have been noted.



**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE**

Comments:

The contents of the memorandum have been noted.

**MINISTER QR DYANTYI**

**DATE**

CABINET MEETING.....

MINUTE NO. /2007

**REPORT TO CABINET: REQUEST FOR THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER REGARDING THE COMPOUND FLOOD, WHICH OCCURRED IN THE WEST COAST ON 6 – 11 JUNE AND 25 – 26 JUNE 2007.**

(LG 11/2/3/2/K29

Local Government and Housing)

**1. RESOLVED that Cabinet:**

- 1.1 Recommends the declaration of the West Coast District Municipal area as a local disaster area (Draft letter as per Annexure C);
- 1.2 Support the request of the West Coast District Municipality to declare the West Coast as a local disaster, and that this request be forwarded to the National Disaster Management Centre for the disaster classification process;
- 1.3 Approve immediate engagement by the Provincial Government of the Western Cape with National Treasury via the National Disaster Management Centre to obtain additional funding to counter the costs of infrastructural and agricultural damages; and
- 1.4 Mandate the Department of Local Government and Housing through its Provincial Disaster Management Centre to assist the West Coast Disaster Management Centre with the co-ordination and facilitation of the recovery process.

**SECRETARY: CABINET**

KABINETSVERGADERING.....

NOTULE NR.

/2007

**VERSLAG AAN KABINET: VERSOEK VIR DIE VERKLARING VAN 'N PLAASLIKE RAMP RAKENDE DIE VLOEDE WAT OP 6 – 11 JUNIE EN 25 – 26 JUNIE 2007 IN DIE WESKUS PLAASGEVIND HET.**

(LG 11/2/3/2/K29

Plaaslike Regering en Behuising)

**1. Kabinet BESLUIT dat:**

- 1.1 Goedkeuring verleen word vir die verklaring van die Weskus Distriksmunisipale gebied as 'n plaaslike ramp gebied (soos per konsepkrywe "Aanhangsel C");
- 1.2 Om die versoek van die Weskus Distriksmunisipaliteit om die Weskus as 'n plaaslike ramp te verklaar, te ondersteun, asook om die versoek vir die klassifiseringsproses aan die Nasionale Rampbestuursentrum deur te gee;
- 1.3 Goedkeuring verleen word vir onmiddellike gesprekvoering deur die Provinsiale Regering van die Wes-Kaap met Nasionale Tesourie via die Nasionale Rampbestuursentrum ten einde adisionele fondse te bekom om sodoende die infrastruktuur en landbou skade aan te spreek; en
- 1.4 Om die Departement van Plaaslike Regering en Behuising deur die Provinsiale Rampbestuursentrum te mandateer om die Weskus Rampbestuursentrum by te staan met die koördinerings en fasilitering van die herstelproses.

**SEKRETARIS: KABINET**