



MEDIA STATEMENT:

TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES:

12 FEBRUARY 2023:

THE MEC FOR COGTA IN THE EASTERN CAPE ZOLILE WILLIAMS ADVISES COMMUNITIES TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AS SEVERE WEATHER AND HEAVY RAINS PERSIST:

The MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) in the Eastern Cape **Zolile Williams** advises communities to take precautionary measures and safeguard themselves as heavy downpours persist in the province. The MEC urges communities to be cautious when they travel around amid heavy rains that continue to cause damage in several parts of the province. The flashpoints districts affected so far are, **O.R. Tambo, Alfred Nzo, Joe Gqabi, Chris Hani** and **Amathole**. Roads, storm-water drainages and bridges in the afore-mentioned districts have been severely damaged.

According to the South African Weather Service (SAWS) advisory, the inclement weather will carry on until next week (18/02/2023). The public is advised to monitor weather forecast on the Television, Radio, local radio stations and social media.

“We urge communities to be vigilant, cautious and heed warnings from relevant authorities such as the local Disaster Management Authorities as well as municipalities”, says the MEC.

The MEC urges communities to offer assistance to those in need especially those who have been adversely affected by the recent floods and displaced from their homes. He is asking for those who are able to offer a helping hand to do so.

He is making an appeal to people who live in the low-lying areas to take extra-precautionary measures during the storms as sudden floods may affect them. He says that they should monitor the rising water tides and evacuate to safe areas. Learners should not cross low-lying bridges and streams on their way to schools. Motorists should avoid driving through flooded areas.

Communities are advised to avoid contact with deluge of waters as the waters may have been contaminated by raw sewage, oil or dangerous substances.

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Media Enquiries

Pheello Oliphant (0824326433)

Mamkeli Ngam (0716857981)

**Issued by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA
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