



MEDIA STATEMENT

14 FEBRUARY 2023

EASTERN CAPE DISASTER ASSESSMENT TEAMS WORKING IN EARNEST

The MEC for Cogta, Zolile Williams has confirmed that Disaster Assessment Teams are working flat out to ascertain the extent of damage following heavy rains in the Eastern Cape Province, last week. The affected Districts are Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo, Amathole and Sarah Baartman and the provincial report will be expedited for sharing with the National Disaster Management Centre.

MEC Williams said the work of the assessment teams is being hampered by damaged infrastructure including roads and bridges.

“We have difficulty in accessing some of the affected communities due to roads that have become dongas and bridges washed away. We thank the Gift of the Givers, Red Cross and other Non-Governmental Organisations for the relief support they continue to render to alleviate the plight of our people,” said MEC Williams.

He sent government’s heartfelt condolences to the families of the four deceased persons.

MEC Williams added that the Department of Human Settlements has already made available 100 temporary shelters in Enoch Mgijima to attend to the families that are housed in community halls.

He said the rainfalls caused severe damage especially to settlements, road infrastructure, health infrastructure, education infrastructure and agriculture infrastructure.

MEC Williams said the rainfalls happened when the Province has not yet recovered from the previous disaster situations which have affected five districts between 2013

and to date. The interventions that are already underway include road repairs, psycho-social support to victims, erection of temporary shelters, provision of water tankers and support from other organs of state including the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

MEC Williams said the Province was still experiencing drought especially on the Western side, Nelson Mandela and Sarah Baartman municipalities.

Issued by Cogta EC.

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