

SA1 of 2019

REPORT ON THE FLOODING THAT DESTROYED INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND THABONG, BRONVILLE, HANI PARK AND OTHER TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS WITHIN MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY FROM THE 21st UNTIL THE 26th APRIL 2019 (EXECUTIVE MAYOR)

PURPOSE

To provide a report to Council regarding the extreme flooding that destroyed infrastructure including houses in our towns and township areas of Matjhabeng Local Municipality.

The report is also meant to provide valuable information that would enable the determination of whether the recovery measures as per the key performance area (KPA) 4 of National Disaster Management Framework of 2005 was sufficient. It would then enable decision making regarding the best way forward in order to alleviate the plight of the affected communities.

BACKGROUND

Matjhabeng Local Municipality experienced serious and severe flooding from the 21st April 2019 in the morning around early morning wherein approximately 400 houses were severely damaged. A lot of structural damage was reported during the days ensuing the incident as people came out seeking shelter from the Municipality. Wall structures, foundations and roofing materials were badly affected in the process. Preliminary report detailing this flooding challenge is attached and includes specific details on both service delivery as well as humanitarian aspects brought about the unsuspected flooding. Most of the affected people who had to be moved from their homes were temporarily sheltered in schools and municipal halls in order to receive required aid.

DISCUSSION

KPA 1 of the National Disaster Management Framework of 2005 ensures that there is effective and appropriate disaster response and recovery by averting the potential impact in respect of personal injury, health, loss of life, property, infrastructure, environment, and government services. Matjhabeng Local Municipality categorized the damages according to severity.

The most affected infrastructure includes houses completely soaked from their foundations, some roofs notwithstanding the deluge and releasing water to furniture as well as electricity black out in other areas from electricity breakage. Most of the identified issues are being given attention by the Municipality as people cannot survive without them. In the process, the Electricity section of Matjhabeng Local Municipality had to spend three consecutive days addressing electricity issue for Bronville and surrounding areas that were affected by the black-out whilst the Traffic and Security component of the Municipality with back up from South African Police Service had to provide needed security where it was needed.

A Joint Operation Committee (JOC) was established on the 23rd April 2019, where different stakeholders were represented. Resolutions within the JOC fostered establishment of a working relationship with ward councillors to ensure that correct information is disseminated for consolidation. Assistance was received from a number of government and non-governmental organisations as detailed in the preliminary report.

*** See the report **attached as SEPARATE COVER 1.**

This flooding affected a larger portion of Thabong and Bronville and to a manageable degree other areas of the Municipality in particular as disclosed in the report as attached for consideration. The Municipality committed to assisting through own resources which then been overstretched. It is proposed here that the major flooding incident be declared as a local disaster by the Municipal council to enable funds to be released from National Treasury, through the National Disaster Management Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost to provide support during the flooding period has not yet been determined.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Key Performance Area 4 of the National Disaster Management Framework is applied. The KPA 4 ensure that appropriate Disaster response and recovery are categorised according to their severity.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Given the severity of damage that the unexpected flooding caused to affected members of the community within the Municipality, it is therefore resolved that:
 - (a) Matjhabeng Local Municipality be declared as a local disaster area.