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# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

25 September 2023

## Media Release – General Weather Advisory & Impact on Municipal Services

### **Introduction:**

The orange level 9 weather advisory is still on track. Rainfall and windy conditions are anticipated to increase from 13:00 this afternoon, with persistent rainfall anticipated to remain for the rest of the day. As a result, all weather advisories communicated by the BVM remains applicable. Municipal disaster and essential service teams have been placed on high alert.

### **Informal Settlements:**

The municipal Housing and Human Settlements department was deployed to assess damages inflicted within informal settlements. The team is currently responding to a call for assistance from ward 16 (Zwelethemba) and will continuously monitor the impact on settlements.

### **Roads & Stormwater Services:**

Roads and stormwater infrastructure remains under pressure due to the excessive stormwater stemming from the persistent rainfall. As a result, road networks within municipal borders may experience flooding. Motorists and pedestrians are advised to exercise extreme caution whilst using our road networks during this period and encouraged to avoid road networks entirely if possible.

The following roads/routes within the municipal boundaries have been closed:

- N1 in the direction of Touwsrivier, from the R43 intersection (Ceres/Wolseley turn-off towards Worcester) to the R46 intersection (Ceres turn-off towards Touwsrivier)
- R60 between Robertson and Worcester closed
- Slanghoek Road (Rawsonville)
- Doringrivier (Rawsonville)
- Moddergat (Rawsonville)
- Lemoenpoort (Rawsonville)
- De Hoek (Rawsonville)
- Orchard (De Doorns)
- Entrances to GG-camp and Sandhills currently also closed. BVM must wait for the water to subside before repairs can be done.

Roads within the CWDM with problems:

- OP05662 De Hoek. Flooding.
- DR01085 Kromme Rhee. Trees on road (Teams enroute).
- DR01083 Elsenberg, Trees on road.
- MR191 Franshoek pass. Trees across road.
- DR1351 Robertsvlei. Water on road.
- DR1400 Nuy Km 6.70 road closed – flooding.
- DR5719 Knetvlei De Doorns closed – flooding.
- DR1489 Modderdrif De Doorns closed.
- DR1353 Konings River km 7.80 flooding.

SANRAL problems

- N2 Botrivier completely washed away.

The following website gets updates with road closures regularly: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/news/road-closure-alert-25-september> Last update was 13:30

Authorities are continuously monitoring hotspot areas prone to probable flooding.

### **Electrical Services:**

- Worcester: Area faults/complaints are under control. Six (6) single complaints are currently being dealt with.
- De Doorns: An area fault has been reported in Ekuphumleni. The team is currently responding to the area fault.
- Touwsrivier: No area faults/complaints reported.
- Rawsonville: No area faults/complaints reported, as confirmed by Eskom.

### **Water & Sanitation Services:**

No adverse impact on water & sanitation infrastructure reported, thus all towns remain fully operational. Teams continue to monitor water flow in- and around the infrastructure. Residents are reminded that excessive flooding may naturally contribute to the discoloration of water. However, the water remains safe for human consumption. Any change in this status will be immediately communicated. As a precautionary measure, residents are encouraged to boil their water before consumption.

### **Solid Waste & Area Cleaning:**

Solid Waste & Area Cleaning services have been rendered in Roodewal and Paglande (except Russell Street), in accordance with the revised public holiday collection schedule communicated on Friday, 22 September 2023. However, service has been suspended due to the adverse weather conditions. The outstanding area(s) as well as the Tuesday collection schedule will reconvene tomorrow, favourable weather conditions permitting. Members of the public are advised that possible backlogs may occur as a result, however, such backlogs will be proactively communicated to limit inconvenience as far as possible.

### **Conclusion:**

The municipality regrets the service delivery interruptions and inconvenience caused as a result of the ongoing adverse weather event. However, the collaborative efforts of members of society, civil- and private organisations as well as government departments during this challenging period is applauded.

With reference to the adverse weather advisory issued for the rest of the day, communities are reminded that all essential service teams have been placed on high alert and are ready to serve and respond to any adverse flooding and/or related event that may arise because of the ongoing storm.

Kindly note the following important service numbers:

- Reporting service issues/interruptions and general matters: **Service Support Centre** (0860 12 12 12)
- Emergency calls during high emergency/life-threatening situations: **Emergency Control Centre** (023 342 2430 or 112)

Members of the public are referred to the following useful tips during severe storms:

- Move to higher ground if near a flooded area.
- Avoid crossing flooded roads and pathways.
- Ensure that mobile/electronic devices are sufficiently charged.
- Save the emergency numbers on mobile devices.
- Keep personal documents, credit cards, ID, passport etc in a waterproof bag.
- Pack dry clothing to keep warm.
- Have an emergency whistle to signal help.
- Pack non-perishable foods, candles, water, and matches
- Have a torch and batteries available.
- Visit the link for more useful tips: <https://hsseworld.com/photo-of-the-day-flood-safety-tips/>

We encourage all members of society to remain vigilant and safe. We further implore for patience toward our teams serving during this period and encourage the collaboration of those able to do so. Lastly, we convey our heartfelt gratitude to all members of staff assuming the call of duty during this time.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT – ON REQUEST - OUR PRESS RELEASES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN ISIXHOSA AND AFRIKAANS**

### **Media Queries**

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