



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

26 September 2023

Media Release – Post-flooding Status & Mop-up Operations

Introduction:

Following the adverse weather incident which resulted in excessive rainfall and damaging winds over the past two days, municipal authorities at local and district level, in collaboration with sister government departments and agencies have commenced with post-flooding assessments and mop-up operations. The information to follow, presents a high-level overview of the status of each town throughout the BVM.

Touwsrivier:

Although the Touws River has flooded its banks, limited damage has been reported in town and on municipal infrastructure. Marginal flooding has been noted in the Donkies River, but with no significant impact on the town. All road networks are operational in- and around the town, thus, no significant delays in service delivery are anticipated.

De Doorns:

The access road to the GG Camp settlement has been washed away, subsequently restricting access to- and from the settlement. The anticipated timeframe of repair is currently not known, primarily due to the magnitude of water still flowing in the vicinity. As a result, the municipality is assessing the viability of alternative access roads/routes to- and from the settlement. The N1 remains closed due to significant presence of debris, siltation, and potential damage. Traffic is still being diverted via Ceres to access Worcester and Touwsrivier respectively. In addition, the access road to Sunnyside Orchard has been significantly damaged. Motorists and residents are advised to avoid this road and to keep children away from the area due to the high risk of injury prevalent. Authorities are considering the temporary closure of this access road to facilitate repair. Apart from damaged road infrastructure, no serious damage has been inflicted on other municipal infrastructure, however, the inaccessibility of certain road networks and areas throughout the town, may contribute to delays in service delivery. The municipality remains committed to restore the minimum service delivery levels in the town.

Rawsonville:

Fortunately, no serious flood damages were reported. However, the “watergat” adjacent to the Geelkampie informal settlement contributed to marginal flooding in certain structures within the settlement. Municipal teams have responded to the flooding of the “watergat” as a means of reducing water levels in- and around the settlement. In De Nova (Angelier Street), a blocked stormwater pipe and outlet (due to litter/refuse dumping) contributed to marginal flooding in the adjacent houses. A municipal team assisted with the cleaning/unblocking of the stormwater pipe and outlet to improve the flow of stormwater.

Worcester:

The R60 (both lanes) have been opened. Traffic flow is normal, notwithstanding the higher traffic volumes due to closures on alternative routes leading to Cape Town. No serious flooding damage has been reported within the town. Municipal infrastructure remains operational, with no major disruptions to service delivery anticipated. The informal settlement in ward 16 (Zwelethemba) and ward 21 (Avian Park) is somewhat waterlogged due to seeping ground water. A municipal team is considering adequate means to help within the affected areas.



Conclusion:

Although limited damage has been inflicted on municipal service infrastructure, there is a high presence of debris and siltation, particularly in- and around the flood paths. Authorities have been mobilised to commence with post-flooding assessments coupled with mop-up and repair operations in instances where it has been declared safe to proceed. We thank the public for the support and patience portrayed during this period and commit to restore a full level of service throughout all areas as soon as possible.

Citizens should note that another adverse weather advisory has been issued, applicable until Sunday, 1 October 2023. Our teams are closely monitoring the development in this regard and gearing ourselves to assist once again. Please follow our social media platforms to remain updated.

Please 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 in close proximity to 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/>

END

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

Media Queries

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