

Ons verw nr / Our Ref No
Isalathiso Sethu

Navrae / Enquiries: N.E. Mdluli
Imbuzo

Date: 23 April 2024

Mr. Michaels
Robertson Neighbourhood Watch
Email: michaels@rcnw.co.za

Dear Mr. Michaels

RE: LANGEBERG MUNICIPAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024/2025, COMMENTS RECEIVED

Langeberg Municipality as part of the Disaster Management Plan Review process requested written comments, inputs or recommendations for the review of the Disaster Management Plan. Assistance was also offered to transcribe comments, inputs or recommendations to any person who could not read or write as indicated in the advertisement. Comments received were also sent to the Strategic Management Team for their perusal and comments.

Herein below are the comments received from yourself and comments in response to the comments received:

Comments from email address: michaels@rcnw.co.za

1. I see people shooting flares at night (since Thursday last week) and what worries me most is that the flares are aimed at the Muisboskraal hill, the one that house most of our communication towers. Subsequently I also notice flares been aimed at the mountain range behind Droee Heuwel. I've been living in Robertson for 21 years now and based on my knowledge we always had communication via fixed Telkom lines and various mobile service providers. Not the most reliable at times as the cellular network gets overloaded during peak season.

Comments in response: It is the valid concern but can only be addressed through bylaws of the municipality by prohibiting flares etc. in certain areas and allowing them in certain areas with control measures in place or prohibiting them completely.

2. Recently, September 2023 we saw McGregor completely cutoff from the rest of the towns. My daughter was stuck there, unexpectedly, for four days. She did not take her medication with and struggled to operate in less than 24 hours from not taking her medicine. Luckily I was able to make use of my drone to fly some medicine across the Breederiver. This made me think, what if someone was in urgent need of insulin? Or maybe anti venom? How do we stock important medicine in McGregor for disaster cases?

Comments in response: During disasters, things are abnormal. However, the issue needs to be escalated to the Department of Health as a primary role player. The helicopter is available for life threatening medical emergencies from the department of health Emergency Medical Services section and is activated in accordance with the already established protocols.

3. Your plan proposes to be that of the 2023/2024 year, yet most of the statistical data used is based on stats from 2021 and some even as far back as 2016. How relevant are these stats currently? The last



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disaster recorded dates back to 2021 (flooding) and since then we have faced several other incidents that could have been included in this plan. Most recent floods of September 2023 had a severe impact on not only residents of the Langeberg but also visitors passing by.

Comments in response: Statistical data is based on the sources that are accredited, and can only be updated once the accredited institutions have released the data. Highlights of incidents are included in the plan even though it was incidents that were not declared as a disaster incidents, and the plan is completed before the beginning of the new municipal financial year. Therefore, there will be some of the incidents that might occur in the same year in which the plan was finalised but which may not appear in the plan as they would have occurred after the completion of the plan. The September 2023 floods are now appearing in the reviewed disaster management plan as Province in collaboration with National government declared the period as fitting to be classified as a disaster for the Western Cape Province

4. The DM plan further refers to the completion of a JOC at 6 Church Street, Robertson. Who will have access to the JOC? In the event of a disaster, do each representative know where to go? Do we have secure communications at the JOC for each department? Do we have backup power capabilities to run the JOC and if we rely on fuel to run the generators, where will we secure fuel if it is necessary to run the JOC for more than 8 hours? This might be detail of the bigger DM plan that will be covered somewhere else in the master plan, but we need to highlight this.

Comments in response: Access to the JOC is for all the relevant stakeholders that will have a positive input to the JOC, they are activated based on the incident at hand and according to necessity. The relevant stakeholders know where the JOC is, and new members are added as identified. The JOC is linked to the commando building generator. The fuel issue is addressed in the contingency plan that is being finalised by the Langeberg Municipality

5. God forbid that we will ever have to face a disaster that require of us to be independent from the rest of the Western Cape, but in the event where we can't get out of the Langeberg or a specific town, does the DM plan make provision for cash? Transportation of cash and replenishment of ATM's? same goes for food security. Your plan refers to just over 115 000 residents. Again, not all will be equally affected at the same time, but what do we do if our retailers run out of fresh water and food?

Comments in response: The function of Disaster Management is to coordinate the stakeholders that are trained and capable to deal with a certain disaster incident. The cash issues will need to be escalated to the banking industry as it poses financial and safety risk, for their comments, if there is anything that can be done when the disaster related incidents strike. With regards to food security, the matter needs to be escalated to the retail industry for their comments. Population stats are based on the stats as released by stats SA.

6. I further suggest that the Langeberg identify at least one fuel station that will be allocated for the sole use of emergency vehicles. We may have more than enough vehicles but without fuel they mean nothing. Reference to the floods of September 2023. Citizens and visitors alike rushed to all fuel stations to fill up their vehicles and containers to run generators. If we had to be stuck for just one more day, we would have run out of fuel. In this example we had a long weekend and garage owners were prepared in terms of available fuel, what if when this happened in the middle of the month where fuel levels were much lower?



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Comments in response: This needs to be investigated to see if there is a potential service provider who is willing to reserve fuel for emergency vehicles and other needs as a result of a disaster related emergency or if there is any other alternative to have fuel available to be used during disaster related incidents. Further investigation to be done on the sources of funding for the reservation of fuel at the fuel station that will be reserved solely for the use of emergency vehicles.

Yours faithfully



Mr. M. MGAJO

DIRECTOR: COMMUNITY SERVICES



Rig alle korrespondensie aan die Munisipale Bestuurder
Address all correspondence to the Municipal Manager
Thumelayonke imbalelwano kumphati Kamasipala