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Contents

No.		Gazette No.	Page No.
	GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS		
Co-operative Governance, Department of / Samewerkende Regering, Departement van			
4891	Disaster Management Act (57/2002): Classification of a Provincial Disaster in terms of Section 23 of the Act: Impact of Severe Weather in the Free State	50715	3

DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

NO. 4891 **27 May 2024**

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002)

CLASSIFICATION OF A PROVINCIAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 23 OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002): IMPACT OF SEVERE WEATHER IN THE FREE STATE

I, Dr Bongani Elias Sithole, in my capacity as the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre, after having deliberations with various organs of state and the Free State Provincial Disaster Management Centre, and after assessing the magnitude and severity of the impact of severe weather accompanied by disruptive rains on 7 and 8 April 2024, causing devastating impacts that resulted in the loss of life, damage to property, infrastructure and the environment, as well as the disruption of basic services, and after having considered the information and recommendations received from the Free State Provincial Disaster Management Centre, I hereby give notice that on 15 May 2024, in terms of Section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) (the Act), I classified this occurrence as a Provincial Disaster.

Emanating from the classification of this occurrence as a Provincial disaster, in terms of section 40 read with section 23 of the Act, the primary responsibility to coordinate and manage this disaster, in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements, is designated to the Provincial Executive.

I hereby, in terms of Section 15(2)(*aA*) of the Act, read with section 23(8), call upon organs of state to further strengthen support to existing structures to implement contingency arrangements and ensure that measures are put in place to enable the Provincial Executive to effectively deal with the effects of this disaster.

Furthermore, all affected organs of state must prepare and submit reports, as required by the Provincial Disaster Management Centre as outlined in section 24(4) - (8) of the Act.

The revocation of the classification is set out in the schedule hereto.

Elias Sithole

Dr Bongani Elias Sithole

Head: National Disaster Management Centre

Date: 15/05/2024

Schedule

The Provincial Executive dealt with the Provincial disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements without declaring a Provincial state of disaster in terms of section 41(1) of the Act.	The classification is revoked by the Head: National Disaster Management Centre when the occurrence can no longer be regarded as a disaster in terms of the Act upon reassessment by the NDMC.
The Provincial Executive dealt with the Provincial disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements as augmented by regulations and / or directions following the declaration of a Provincial state of disaster in terms of section 41(2).	The classification of a Provincial disaster is automatically revoked when the Provincial state of disaster is terminated or lapses in terms of section 41(5) of the Act.

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