Government Gazette
Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 725 24 November / November 2025 No. 53711

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ISSN 1682-5845

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Contents

No.		Gazette No.	Page No.
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS			
Co-operative Governance, Department of / Samewerkende Regering, Departement van			
6870	Disaster Management Act (57/2002): Classification of a National Disaster in terms of Section 23 of the Act: Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.....	53711	3

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

NO. 6870 **24 November 2025**

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

CLASSIFICATION OF A NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 23 OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002): GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE.

I, Dr Elias Sithole, in my capacity as the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre, after having reconsidered previous reports submitted on gender-based violence and femicide and the updated reports and proposals provided by organs of state, and after assessing the potential life safety risk gender-based violence and femicide continue to pose, I hereby give notice that I regard the immediate life safety risk posed by acts of gender-based violence and femicide as a potential disaster and, in terms of section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), I classify the disaster as a national disaster.

Emanating from the classification, in terms of section 26, read with section 23 of the Act, the primary responsibility to coordinate and manage this national disaster, in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements, is designated to the National Executive.

I hereby –

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

(ii) in terms of section 22(a) of the Act –

(a) read with section 20(2) of the Act, encourage organs of state, the private sector, communities and individuals to improve their practices of risk avoidance programmes through the implementation of targeted gender-based violence and femicide legislation, standards, procedures and practices;

(b) read with section 20(2) of the Act, encourage individuals to refrain from acts of gender-based violence and femicide;

(c) read with sections 25(1)(c), 39(1)(c), 39(2)(k), 53(1)(c) and 53(2)(k) of the Act, and other applicable legislation, recommend that the National Executive, the respective Provincial Executives and the respective Municipal Councils, implement a multisectoral prevention, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation plan to deal with the effects of the disaster; and

(d) read with section 21(a)(ii) of the Act, recommend that each organ of state prepares and submits progress reports, in line with the requirements of the National Disaster Management Centre, to monitor the response initiatives by organs of state, non-governmental organisations and communities.

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

The future revocation of the classification of this disaster, together with its preconditions, is set out in the Schedule hereto.

eliassithole
Dr Elias Sithole
Head: National Disaster Management Centre
Date: 20/11/2025

Schedule

The National Executive dealt with the national disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements without declaring a national state of disaster in terms of section 27(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 National Executive dealt with the national disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements as augmented by regulations and/ or directions following the declaration of a national state of disaster in terms of section 27(2) of the Act.	The classification of a national disaster is automatically revoked when the national state of disaster is terminated or lapses in terms of section 27(5) of the Act.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065

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