



Immediate Release

22 September 2023

ATT: All Media Houses

COGHSTA MEC CALLS ON STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP MAKE LIMPOPO FIRE-WISE

As Limpopo experiences peaking temperatures and what remains of the dry Winter Fire Season, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Mr Basikopo Makamu is encouraging Veldfire and Disaster Management stakeholders to spread more awareness on fire education.

Fire Danger Index (FDI) trends released by SA Weather Services show the index patterns consistently hitting the extreme levels -hovering above 77 for Limpopo. Under these conditions, fires may develop and spread rapidly, resulting in damage to property and possible loss of human or animal life.

Addressing stakeholders during a Provincial Fire Service Seminar hosted by SALGA in the Sekhukhune District, the MEC instructed for the release of consistent fire danger ratings, and for increased fire awareness initiatives so that communities can understand fire safety, behaviour and Fire Danger Index.

“The 5 different color-coded levels of the fire rating scale helps us understand fire. The colours namely Blue (low), Green (moderate), Yellow (high), Orange (very-high) and Red (Extreme) reveal the behaviour and potential of fire,” says the MEC, adding that this understanding would also help forest visitors, and campfire makers to know when to postpone burning debris piles and save the environment.

According to the Water Affairs Fire Danger Classifications, out of 22 Local municipalities in Limpopo, Makhuduthamaga, Fetakgomo, Makhado, Blouberg, Molemole, Polokwane, Lepelle – Nkumpi, Thabazimbi, Mookgopong, Modimolle, Bela Bela, Mogalakwena, Maruleng, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba, Greater Tzaneen, Ba-Phalaborwa, Musina, and Thulamela Local Municipalities are situated in a Fire Danger Region.

“We must raise the levels of awareness to our communities, particularly the most vulnerable. This calls for raising of standards by ourselves as government, our Fire Brigade Services in the municipalities, Working of Fire (WoF), Fire Protections Associations (FPAs) and other role players in their private spaces,” says the MEC.

The MEC encourages community members to pay attention to fire danger index information circulated on municipal and Working On Fire social media pages. “Community members are discouraged from starting fires in open areas and motorists to refrain from recklessly discarding unextinguished cigarette buds on the road,” says Makamu.

End.

For more information contact:

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