

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

To: All Media Houses

Date: 15 January 2025

RED LEVEL 10 WARNING ISSUED BY SAWS FOR MOPANI AND VHEMBE DISTRICTS

The MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in Limpopo, Mr Basikopo Makamu, has expressed deep sadness following the province's first inclement weather-related death. The 4-year-old child who was trapped with his mother on a tree, was swept away before help could arrive.

"One death is too many. We are deeply saddened by this unwarranted loss of life. We urge communities to be extra vigilant as heavy rains continue to plague our province." Says MEC Makamu.

The South African Weather Services (SAWS) has issued a Red Level 10 Warning, in Limpopo province, for today 15 January and tomorrow 16 January 2026. This inclement weather could lead to continued heavy downpours over parts of Limpopo. These include Ba-Phalaborwa, Chabane, Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba, Greater Tzaneen and Maruleng

The warning also indicates the impact that the rain will have as follows:

- Widespread flooding of roads and settlements
- Widespread displacement of affected communities
- Widespread damage to property, buildings and loss of livelihoods and livestock
- Widespread transport routes and travel services will be severely affected
- And widespread prolonged disruption of essential services such as water, electricity, and accessibility to schools.

"The provincial government is currently engaged in the process of collating information related to damage that has been reported, because of the heavy rainfall. Municipalities have been mandated to lead this process through consolidated reports. We are also looking into prospects of applying for a declaration of the Provincial State of Disaster, so that adequate financial resources can be allocated to mitigate against the impact of the heavy rains.'

Due to the combination of very high amounts of rainfall experienced in the past several days in the province, and the expectation of further heavy rainfall, the risk of widespread flooding remains critically high.

The MEC has reiterated deep concern over continued disregard of precautionary measures that government has adopted in order to preserve lives. Communities are urged to avoid crossing flooded rivers, bridges and streams as well as unnecessary traveling, especially when it rains.

COGHSTA continues to work with sister departments such as Social Development, SAPS and Emergency Management Service agencies as well as municipalities to preserve lives and human dignity of our citizens during this difficult rainy season.

END.

Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

For more information contact: MEC's Spokesperson, Mr. Amos Phago on 072 804 3427 or Ms. Tsakani Baloyi, Director for Communications, Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) on 066 486 2571.