



## **Media Statement**

**To: All Media Houses**

**26 December 2025**

**For immediate release**

### **MEC FOR COGHSTA, BASIKOPO MAKAMU, CALLS FOR EXTRA VIGILANCE TO HIKERS, OUTDOOR ENTHUSIATS AND WATER SPORTS PARTICIPANTS DUE TO BAD WEATHER EXPECTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PROVINCE**

The MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in Limpopo Mr. Basikopo Makamu reiterates his call for extra vigilance to the people of Limpopo Province who participates in different sporting codes such as hiking, outdoor enthusiast and water sports participants.

This, after the South African Weather Service (SAWS) had issued an Early Warning Weather Outlook indicating partly cloudy conditions with warm to cool temperatures across the province. Isolated to scattered showers and thundershowers are expected to develop from the afternoon into the evening periods in some days.

Members of the public, particularly those planning outdoor and recreational activities, are urged to exercise heightened caution, especially in mountainous and dam-adjacent areas.

### **Advisory for Hikers and Outdoor Enthusiasts**

MEC Makamu strongly advises hikers and adventure seekers intending to visit the **Magoebaskloof mountainous region**, known for its lush forests, misty

conditions and steep terrain, as well as the **Haenertsburg area**, a popular destination for hiking, cycling, mountain biking and fishing, to remain vigilant or to avoid these activities during this period.

Recent rainfall has resulted in **full dams and saturated ground conditions**, which increase the risk of:

- Sudden water level rises
- Slippery and unstable hiking trails
- Reduced visibility due to mist and rainfall
- Flash flooding in valleys and low-lying areas.

“Members of the public are advised **to be cautious when embarking on hiking activities without relevant and up-to-date information at their disposal**. Incidents have previously been recorded where hikers became **trapped in mountainous areas** due to rapidly changing weather conditions”, MEC Makamu warns.

Before undertaking any hiking activity, individuals are urged to:

- Check the latest weather forecasts and warnings
- Confirm trail conditions and accessibility
- Inform others of their hiking plans and expected return time
- Carry appropriate safety gear and communication devices
- Avoid hiking during or immediately after heavy rainfall

### **Advisory for Water Sport Activities**

Makamu says “the public is also cautioned that sailing and other water sport activities are currently taking place on the nearby Ebenezer Dam. Weather conditions associated with thundershowers, including strong winds and lightning, may pose a serious risk to water users”.

Water sport participants should:

- Monitor weather updates closely
- Avoid entering the water when storms are forecast or observed
- Ensure all safety equipment is in place and functional

Mec Makamu says “the public is urged to take SAWS weather warnings seriously and to always prioritize personal safety. Weather conditions can change rapidly, particularly in mountainous and dam-adjacent areas, and preparedness can prevent avoidable emergencies”.

Further updates will be communicated as and when necessary.

**END.**

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

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