



## 2011 MEDIA ADVISORIES AND STATEMENTS

### INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (ISDR) CONFERENCE

**2 November 2011**

*The citizens of Meqheleng are still reeling from the tornado that struck on 2 October 2011. Some are still trying to piece together meaning to work out reasons for this disaster...*

Recently the Free State experienced some unprecedented disaster incidents, never known to prevail in the province, and in the country. The Ficksburg, Meqheleng tornado, the floods earlier in the year in various parts of the province, brought home a glaring reality of the impact of climate change and the importance of heeding the United Nations' call for implementation of various disaster reduction and mitigation strategies.

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) conference on 3-4 November 2011 to be hosted by the Ministry for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements led by MEC MG Qabathe, will focus on creating awareness of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction pioneered by the United Nations.

A few weeks to the COP17 conference on climate change in Durban, this conference seeks to create awareness of the impact of climate change and the consequences thereof; further highlight human contribution to climate change and how reversing these could reduce the frequency and intensity of disasters and perhaps even reverse the extent of climate change and save the planet. Key to the conference's message is that we need to be prepared for and plan for disaster incidents through measures that can be taken for disaster reduction.

The conference to be opened by MEC Qabathe, will discuss various topics towards the development of the provincial action on disaster management and risk reduction as per the goals of the United Nations strategy on risk reduction; and to align these with the Free State provincial growth and Development Strategy, the provincial departments' Strategic Plans and Municipal Integrated Development Plans. The conference seeks to place Disaster Risk reduction at the centre of, and as an integral part of all development initiatives in the province.

Topics to be discussed include sustainable development, status of disaster management, recent disasters experienced and likely to be prevalent in the province - floods and veld fires- climate change, weather patterns nationally and internationally and the anticipated impact of these as recently experienced in the Ficksburg and Duduza tornados.

Speakers will range from representatives from the South African Weather Services, National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres, Mangaung Metro Municipality, the provincial Department of Human Settlements which will talk about integrated sustainable human settlements. Further discussions will be held in separate commissions towards developing resolutions that will be used for the formulation of a provincial strategy and action plan for disaster reduction.

Some of the Conference Objectives are:

- To achieve resilient, sustainable urban and rural communities, with a growing number of local governments that are taking action to reduce the risks associated with disasters.
- To empower local governments with stronger national (and international) policies to invest in risk reduction at local level, as part of urban, rural and regional development plans.
- To raise political profile of risk reduction for local governments, with stronger synergy between local and national (as well as international) policies.
- To support the Hyogo Framework implementation by Local Governments.

Enquiries:

Senne Bogatsu

Cell: 082 774 1014

## **The Free State youth at work programme is implemented**

**24 June 2011**

The Free State Ministry for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements will implement the Free State Youth at Work programme aimed at youth empowerment tomorrow, Saturday, 25 June, in Makeleketa, Winburg.

The multipurpose Free State Youth at Work programme aims to meet government's objectives for youth development through various integrated programmes that target training and skills development towards employment. 60 youths have been identified in Winburg for this purpose. These will be trained in construction and given an opportunity to work in some of the construction projects targeted at building houses for the women who participated in the 1956 Women's March against pass laws.

In addition, 50 youth who are in parole will assist with building the houses indicated above. The objective of their inclusion is to give them a chance for reintegration into the community through contribution to the wellbeing of others.

MEC Qabathe aims at creating a conscientious youth that will carry on the spirit of bringing about change, a youth that is socially conscious and makes a difference in the lives of others while getting skills and employment.

As per the programme below, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Department of Trade And Industry (DTI) and the Free State Department of Social Development will participate in the programme tomorrow towards an integrated approach of government in creating development opportunities for the youth.

### Programme

9h30: MEC meets youth for a briefing

10h00: Walk/ drive to the houses to be demolished

10h30: Demolitions of houses and rubble removal

13h00: Community Meeting

- Purpose of the event: Hod Mm Mokoena
- Presentations: National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- Free State Social Development – youth development
- Construction Seta

- Department of Trade And Industry (DTI)
- Remarks by Makeleketla Youth
- MEC's address

15h00: Youth Celebrations

The next event of a similar purpose will be held in Rouxville as it unfolds throughout the province in a phased manner.

Should you wish to attend the event or arrange for an interview with the MEC or representative, please reply or contact:

Senne Bogatsu

Cell: 082 774 1014

Those journalists who need transport MUST please indicate so by 12 noon today.

## **ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE INSTITUTION OF TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**7 February 2011**

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs together with the Department of Traditional Affairs nationally, invite you to a workshop on the assessment of the State of Governance within the Institution of Traditional Affairs to be held at the Golden Gate, Clarence from 8 to 9 February 2011.

### **The focus of the workshop**

Following the establishment of the Department of Traditional Affairs nationally, government has been at work to reconfigure its work to fully support the institution of traditional leadership in order for the institution to carry out its mandate as enshrined in Chapter 12 of the Constitution.

The workshop seeks to solicit views of different primary stakeholders on the functionality of the institution and how it can be best configured to meet the responsibilities placed upon it by government.

The two day workshop will be addressed by the Director-General for Traditional Affairs Dr C Nwaila, who will lay the foundation with a presentation about the Elements of Governance and Traditional Affairs based on the White Paper on Traditional Affairs that outline the role of traditional affairs in governance. The workshop will address five key topic viz.

- Governance and IGR structure
- Provincial House of Traditional Leaders
- Functionality and support of houses
- Participation and cooperation between traditional leadership and municipalities
- Reconstitution and functionality of Traditional Councils

It is envisaged that MEC MG Qabathe will address the gathering.

Requests for interviews may be directed to:  
 Senne Bogatsu  
 Cell: 082 774 1014

## ITINERARY FOR THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT'S JOC'S VISIT TO THE FREE STATE FOR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

4 February 2011

On 7 to 9 February 2011, the National Joint Committee (NATJOC) on disasters will visit the Free State to assess damage following the recent disasters in various parts of the province.

The NATJOC is conducting national hands-on floods damage assessments to determine the extent of the damage caused. This team will be accompanied by the National Disaster Management Centre's engineers who will be dispatched nationally to do technical assessments and verification of provincial damage cost estimations when floods have subsided. The assessment team also includes the provincial and local government structures to speed up the assistance of affected people.

Please find the attached itinerary for details of the trip for your reference.

Itinerary: NATJOC visit

Date	Time of departure	Venue of departure	of District	Local municipality	Areas to be visited
7 Feb 2011	07h00	PDMC (Sleep over in Bloemfontein)	Xhariep	Letsemeng	Petrusburg: Farms, Houses and Town / businesses Jagersfontein: Bereaved families (return to Bloemfontein)
8 Feb 2011	05h30	PDMC	Thabo Mofutsanyana	Setsoto	Ficksburg – Roads (R26)
				Maluti – a - Phofung	Qwa Qwa: Houses, Washed away bridge, Schools and Clinics
				Dihlabeng (Sleep over in Bethlehem)	Bethlehem: Farms, Houses and Town / businesses Paul Roux
9 Feb 2011	06h30	Bethlehem	Fezile Dabi	Metsimaholo	Oranjeville: Roads, Farms/farm roads Sasolburg: Iraq
				Ngwathe	Parys: Bereaved family Damaged structures

Issued by: Free State Cooperative Governance, Traditional Leadership and Human Settlement