

WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE, DR MMAPHAKA TAU



The year 2017 passed with its sweet and bitter experiences the nation went through.

For us in the disaster management fraternity, like all other years, it has been a year characterised by the celebration of our collective achievements to date, consolidation of the future disaster risk management agenda and a reflection on our strategic role in supporting the realisation of sustainable service delivery and sustainable development goals in the context of the 2030 agenda. As we performed this public service, disaster risk management, we always departed from the premise that our successes depend on how effective we galvanise efforts of other role players and stakeholders including the communities we serve. Accordingly, I wish to express my profound appreciation to all stakeholders and role players who contributed to our collective disaster risk

reduction and management efforts and the realised service impact. Evidently, the management of the effects of incidents and disasters such as the Dineo Tropical Cyclone, the drought disaster, the Knysna fires, the Ugu Oil Spillage, to name but a few, will not have been effective without the contribution of all relevant stakeholders and role players. We, however, note that there is still room for improvement as disaster risk challenges are on an exponential trend due to inter alia, the effects of climate change, the increasing population and the consequent expanding built environment, infrastructural shortfalls and quality, pressure on environmental resources.

To this end, I wish to remind and call upon all role players and our communities to remain vigilant in their areas of responsibilities and localities and carefully promptly deal with any threats, incidents and disasters, which might occur in order to ensure no loss of life, no damage to property, the environment and sustained community services. This will ensure that we co-exist with hazards and that our nation remains resilient for a better South

Africa and Africa we want as underpinned by sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development planning and practices. The theme of the United Nations Global Platform for Disaster Reduction 2017 notably: from “Commitment to Action” will remain a mantra for all of us as we implement all policies, programmes and projects to realising effective service delivery and sustainable development.

To this end, I wish everyone a rewarding 2018 year characterised by enhanced disaster risk reduction and management measures for the benefit of the current and future generations.

Remember: Disaster Risk Management is Everybody's Business.

Kind regards

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- ▶ 6. NDMC Conditional Emergency Grant for provinces and municipalities
- 7. National Emergency Reserve Account
- 8. Central Contingency Fund

In light of the aforementioned assumptions, it might be beneficial to have a more structured (multi-sectoral) problem solving solution. The uncertainties on how the disaster management funding mechanism works as currently set out in the National Disaster Management Framework

should be refined in more detailed guidelines, as well as regulations. This also should include the funding of disaster risk reduction and not only response and recovery.

Lastly, we also have to mention that if each hazard, through legal mandates, could be allocated to a specific national department/entity, which is then the recognised (official) hazard-based owner, then the complexity of who has to fund what disasters might also be solved.

Hopefully the above mentioned discussions on funding disasters might have stimulated some thought and will encourage further discussions, research and most importantly, articles in our future DMISA publications.

Herewith again my sincere appreciation to all who have contributed towards this edition and the last but not the least, thank our editor and publisher, Lee-Raath Brownie, for her continued support and delivery of a top class Disaster Management publication. 🇿🇦