



**Report of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery, Dated 27 November 2023**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Establishment and mandate .....	1
1.2 Committee membership .....	2
<b>2. FOLLOW UP ON PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 Department of Social Development .....	3
2.2 Department of Small Business Development .....	3
2.3 Department of Water and Sanitation .....	3
2.4 Department of Cooperative Governance .....	4
2.5 Department of Human Settlements .....	5
2.6 Department of Transport .....	5
2.7 Auditor-General of South Africa .....	6
2.8 eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality .....	7
2.9 Portfolio Committee on Basic Education .....	8
2.10 Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs .....	8
2.11 Outstanding Progress Reports.....	8
<b>3. FACT-FINDING VISITS TO AFFECTED PROVINCES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
3.1. Gauteng Province (18 - 21 June 2023 and follow-up on 07 – 08 November 2023) .....	9
3.1. KwaZulu-Natal Province (28 -30 June 2023).....	13
3.2. Eastern Cape (22 – 23 August 2023) .....	17
3.3. North-West (24 August 2023 and follow-up on 24 November 2023) .....	20
3.4. Free State (25 August 2023).....	23
3.5. Mpumalanga (02 – 03 November 2023).....	25
3.6. Limpopo (14 -15 November 2023).....	26
<b>4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
4.1 Observations .....	28
4.2 Recommendations .....	31
<b>5. ANNEXURE: MATTERS FOR FOLLOW-UP BY RELEVANT COMMITTEES</b> .....	<b>33</b>

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

**1.1 Establishment and mandate**

Having noted the devastating floods in the provinces of the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and the Northwest in February 2023, and the consequent declaration of a national state of disaster on 13 February 2023, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces agreed that Parliament has a constitutional obligation to oversee the implementation of Government relief measures to address the flood impact. With the concurrence of both Houses of Parliament, and in accordance with Joint Rule 138 of the Joint Rules of Parliament, Parliament established the *Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery* whose main objectives are to:

- Oversee the response and implementation of the relief measures by Government and affected provinces.
- Engage the relevant government departments and entities to assess the overall impact of the damage, response, and relief measures by Government.
- Follow up the recommendations contained in the Report adopted by both Houses in November 2022.
- Confer with relevant committees to facilitate coordinated oversight.
- Exercise those powers in Joint Rule 32 in the furtherance of its mandate.
- Consist of 11 members from the National Assembly (ANC 6, DA 2, EFF 1 and other parties 2); and



- Report on its work by 30 November 2023.

The Ad Hoc Joint Committee's work follows up on that of the previous Ad Hoc Joint Committee, which was established as per ATC No.68 of 11 May 2022, with the main objective of assessing the extent and response to the damages incurred in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, North-West and the Eastern Cape following the flooding incidents experienced in April and May 2022. In this regard, the Committee engaged the relevant sector departments, the affected municipalities, and other relevant organs of state, to assess the interventions instituted in the aftermath of the floods. This included convening and receiving briefings from the political heads of the relevant sectoral departments, the relevant Premiers, and the relevant MECs of the three affected provinces. The Committee also undertook fact-finding oversight visits to the affected areas, adopted and tabled its final report to both Houses of Parliament on 17 November 2022.

### 1.2 Committee membership

As per ATC No. 46 of 31 March 2023, the Ad Hoc Joint Committee's membership was constituted as follows:

<b>National Assembly</b>		
Political Party	Main Member	Alternate Member
<i>African National Congress</i>	Frolick, Mr. CT (Co-Chairperson)	Masiko, Ms. FA
	Lesoma, Ms. RMM (Whip)	Magaxa, Mr. KE
	Mashego, Mr. MR	
	Direko, Ms. DR	
	Malatji, Mr. T	
	Mbingo-Gigaba, Ms. BP	
<i>Democratic Alliance</i>	Spies, Ms. ERJ	
	Hoosen, Mr. MH	
<i>Economic Freedom Fighters</i>	Mente, Ms. NV	Mkhaliphi, Ms. HO
<i>Inkatha Freedom Party</i>	Hlengwa, Mr. M	
<i>African Transformation Movement</i>	Zungula, Mr. V	
<i>Freedom Front Plus</i>		Groenewald, Mr. M
<i>United Democratic Front</i>		Nkwankwa, Mr. N

<b>National Council of Provinces</b>		
Political Party	Main Member	Alternate Member
<i>African National Congress</i>	Nyambi, Mr. AJ (Co-Chairperson)	Nkosi, Ms. E
	Ncita, Ms. ZV	Moshodi, Ms. ML
	Dodovu, Mr TSC	Bartlett, Ms. BM
	Shaikh, Ms. S	Nchabeleng, Mr. ME
	Bebee, Ms. LC (Whip)	
<i>Democratic Alliance</i>	Brauteseth, Mr. TJ	Labuschagne, Ms. C
	Bara, Mr. MR	
<i>Economic Freedom Fighters</i>	Luthuli, Ms. SA	Mokause, Ms. MO
<i>Freedom Front Plus</i>	Du Toit, Mr. F	De Bruyn, Mr. MAP

<b>Committee Support Staff</b>	
Name	Designation
Ms. Nola Matinise	Committee Secretary
Mr. King Kunene	Committee Secretary
Mr. Anele Kabingesi	Committee Secretary
Mr. Thomani Manungufala	Researcher
Mr. Mkhululi Molo	Researcher
Mr. Andile Sokomani	Content Advisor
Dr. Anneke Clarke	Content Advisor
Ms. Yandiswa Cele-Ntshika	Committee Assistant
Mr. Lwazi Ben	Committee Assistant



Ms. Nozuko Mnyovu	Committee Assistant
Ms. Faith Ndenze	Communications Officer

## 2. FOLLOW UP ON PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific sector departments and state organs were expected to implement the applicable recommendations emanating from the Ad Hoc Joint Committee's first session, and the relevant Portfolio and Select Committees to follow-up on the specific matters referred to them. Correspondence was dispatched requesting these institutions to furnish Parliament with update reports on action taken in relation to the Ad Hoc Joint Committee's findings and recommendations. Update reports were received from the Departments of Social Development, Small Business Development, Water and Sanitation, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, Transport, Auditor-General (AG), the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, and the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, as follows:

### 2.1. Department of Social Development

The Committee requested the Department to report back on initiatives it had undertaken to equip it to better respond to flood disasters, including increasing the supply of social workers and improving the training of those already in the system. The Department reported that National Treasury has provided additional funding that has enabled it to employ and train additional social workers. A portfolio-wide disaster management framework was being drafted for the Department, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA). The establishment of a provincial disaster management coordination team, and the appointment of the Department's Disaster Relief Fund Board, have been finalised. The Department also reported on its ongoing and planned interventions in respect of the post April/May 2022 flooding incidents in the OR Tambo District, and the fire blaze that gutted the Dakota informal settlement in eThekweni.

### 2.2 Department of Small Business Development

The Department was requested to update the Committee on funding support provided to small businesses affected by the April/May 2022 flooding incidents, focusing on developments since its last appearance before the Committee on 11 August 2022. It was reported that, of the 457 applications received in connection with the Department's R50m Formal Trader Relief Fund, 199 have been assessed and subjected to a physical verification process. Forty-three have been declined for not meeting the relevant criteria. The Department's National Office has, to date, thus approved a total of 156 applications to the value of R50m. All 156 applications have been returned to provinces for procurement.

A total of 252 Purchase Orders have been issued, and 248 of these have been paid to the value of R48.1m. There were three outstanding Purchase Order payments amounting to R1.9m, all relating to one client. A total of 8053 applications have been received in respect the Department's R10m Informal Trader Relief Fund. KwaZulu-Natal accounted for 7034 applications, while the Eastern Cape accounted for the remainder. A total of 3683 applications have been approved to the value of R9.039m. Of the approved amount, R7.8m has been paid, with the remainder to be paid after confirmation of delivery dates.

### 2.3 Department of Water and Sanitation

The Committee requested the Department to update it on the rehabilitation of bulk water infrastructure in the April/May 2022 flood aftermath, including the Tongaat Water Treatment Works, and any related intervention since the last briefing to it on 01 July 2022. A progress report on the rehabilitation of the severely damaged Nagle Aqueducts 1 & 2 was received from Umgeni Water. The aqueducts are two of the four large diameter pipes that convey raw water from Nagle Dam to the Durban Heights Water Treatment Works. Aqueduct No.1 was planned for commissioning on 22 December 2022, and this has been successfully achieved. The pipe is currently in operation and has experienced no further failures.

Aqueduct No.2 was planned for commissioning on 30 June 2023. The project was reportedly on track for commissioning by the targeted date, but during its follow-up visit to KwaZulu-Natal the Committee was informed that some delays were experienced resulting in the deadline being shifted to September 2023. Of the R690m budget allocated for this project, R398.9m has been spent, leaving a balance of R291.1m, which translates to 58 percent expenditure. A progress report was also received from the



Department of Water and Sanitation in respect of flood disaster relief and recovery interventions in the Eastern Cape. The OR Tambo District has been allocated a R46.8m budget from the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant. The repair work commenced in November 2022 but could not be completed by the target date of January 2023 due to delays in procurement of equipment from abroad. The National Disaster Management Centre has granted the district extension up to 30 June 2023 to spend the funds.

The post April/May 2022 floods in Port St Johns damaged the same infrastructure that had been repaired. In the Joe Gqabi District, water supply has been restored to the Tyinindini and Ntsimekweni villages where pipe crossings were washed away. Material procured by the Department of Public Works was utilised to complete a bridge to access the Dangershoek Village. Pumps, motors, and associated cabling at the dams in Stomberg and Burgersdorp have been procured and installed. The district has utilised its own funding for these projects and did not submit the required Technical Report and Business Plan to the Department.

The Department formally advised the Amathole District Municipality to reprioritise its R86m 2022/23 budget to address the April 2022 flood damages. A Technical Report from the municipality was due for submission for assessment and approval. The municipality will then be expected to submit a Business Plan based on the approved Technical Report.

## 2.4 Department of Cooperative Governance

The Department was requested to report on the initiatives undertaken to improve disaster management coordination, and address the weaknesses identified in the country's disaster management system. A review of the National Disaster Management Centre's National Disaster Management Framework of 2005, as to address challenges identified with implementation and/or application, was reportedly concluded in March 2023. The Framework is still due for public comments and further consultations. A synthesis report from research findings and recommendations by disaster management scholars was due for completion in May 2023 and was expected to inform the review of South Africa's disaster management system.

At the time of reporting, a series of dialogues to leverage the experience of countries that had been severely affected by disasters was being pursued to share global expertise and knowledge on disaster risk reduction. The first series of dialogues took place on 17 April 2023 where best practice lessons were presented from the country experiences of Japan, Mozambique, Germany, Bangladesh, and India. These lessons were to be collated into a comprehensive report upon conclusion of the dialogue series.

For the municipal financial year ending on 30 June 2023, the Municipal Disaster Response Grant was reportedly allocated and expended as follows:

Province	Municipalities	Total Allocation R'000	No. of funded projects	Expenditure R'000 as at 18 April 2023	% Spent	Balance R'000
1. KwaZulu-Natal	1. Msunduzi	R620	06	R620	100	R0
	2. Mkhambathini	R8 200	03	R8 200	100	R0
	3. iLembe	R19 500	09	R18 674	96	R848
	4. Inkosi Langalibalele	R48 393	04	R39 656	81	R9 293
	5. uGu	R2 000	01	R1 980	99	R19
	6. Ray Nkonyeni	R19 100	15	R19 100	100	R0
	7. Alfred Duma	R14 354	04	R13 792	96	R621
	8. Kwa-Dukuza	R109 103	30	R35 320	32	R73 722
	9. e-Thekwini	R185 000	151	R92 697	50	R92 302
	10 Mandeni LM	R17 023	04	0	0	R17 023
2. Eastern Cape	11. Port St John	R13 300	01	R8 840	66%	R4 460
	12. Ingquza Hill	R4 130	01	R2 067	50%	R2 062
	13. Nyandeni	R2 693	01	R1 904	71%	R602



	14.Umzimbuvu	R10 500	04	R8 856	84%	R1 643
	15.Ntabankulu	R5 111	02	R5 089	58%	R21
	16.Mbashe	R14 415	01	R8 532	32%	R5 882
	17.Winnie Mandela	R12 790	06	R12 790	100%	R0
	18.OR Tambo	R46 872	01	R23 822	51%	R23 822
<b>Total</b>		<b>R516 748</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>R299 956</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>R217 280</b>

An additional R3.3bn was also allocated to the Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure damaged by flash floods in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal. The grant's conditions were amended to allow for spending to respond to the disasters that occurred in December 2021 and April 2022. The National Disaster Management Centre transferred the approved amount to the municipalities in the respective provinces in March 2023. The Grant's legislated implementation period is 12 months and therefore must be used by March 2024.

### **2.5 Department of Human Settlements**

---

The Committee requested the Department to report on timeframes for moving people out of Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) to permanent homes, and any developments relating to the Department's April/May 2022 flood interventions since the last meeting on 01 July 2022. The Department only reported in respect of work being done on land parcels earmarked for the construction of a Permanent Solution in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. A technical meeting between the appointed Service Providers, the Department and eThekweni's Public Sector Housing Department was convened on 20 October 2022 to announce the use of municipal by-laws to shorten the statutory process to be followed in developing a permanent housing solution for the flood victims. Detailed planning activities, including full detailed studies, in respect of the identified land parcels were reportedly underway and were envisaged for completion by 30 June 2023. The Temporary Emergency Accommodation dwellings secured to date have a total capacity of 2909 beds and have all been linked to land parcels estimated to yield 3083 units.

In a subsequent briefing to the Committee, the Department presented a detailed report on its flood disaster response activities as far back as 2021. Part of the Department's innovations in this regard has been to centralise the Emergency Housing Programme as to shorten the provincial and municipal disaster response time and build the necessary capacity. Part of the capacity building process and shortening the turnaround time is to empower Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to conduct the beneficiary verification process. The provision of Temporary Emergency Accommodation has been extremely costly, and there is consequently a need to phase it out. In this regard, the Department is considering an exit strategy.

A perverse incentive whereby people deliberately put themselves in disaster prone areas, as to be prioritised for housing provision, is another challenging dynamic for the Department. The Department is also contending with a policy gap where there is no provision for relocating people to dwellings larger than the 40 square metres prescribed in terms of current housing policy. Further challenges highlighted include building material and land parcel scarcity; post disaster assessment delays due to difficulties accessing the flood-affected sites; insufficient response to previous flood disasters; bank-financed houses that have become government's liability; and the real-time audits which add another layer of disaster response red tape causing further delays.

### **2.6 Department of Transport**

---

The Department was requested to report on the reprioritisation of budgets to fund road damage repairs, including repairs to the embankment failure in Adams Road, Amanzimtoti in the April/May 2022 flood aftermath, and any related interventions since the last briefing on 01 July 2022. It was reported that funding to repair infrastructure damaged by the April 2022 floods was made available during the 2022/23 budget adjustment process, and has since been transferred to affected transport authorities as follows:



R 731 million, including VAT for SANRAL toll and non-toll portfolio due to KZN floods disaster;

R 277 million, including VAT for loss of toll revenue;

R 88 million cost of the Routine Road Maintenance (RRM) works for additional repairs and maintenance works to be undertaken in order to implement interim make-safe measures, attend to minor failures and mitigate any further damage and impact of the floods;

R953.5 for KwaZulu Natal;

R800 million for Eastern Cape; and

R111.1 million for the North West Province.

Permanent repairs to the embankment failure on the N2 Adams Road, Amanzimtoti, commenced in May 2023 and will be completed over an estimated two-month period at an estimated cost of R10m. The previously suspended toll collection on the oThongathi Mainline and Southern Ramps, and Mvoti Mainline and all Ramps, resumed on 01 April 2023. Toll collection remains suspended for oThongathi Northern Ramps pending the restoration of access to the M4 Tongati River Bridge. The construction of a new bridge is envisaged for completion in October 2025 at an estimated cost of R140m. The Table below summarises funding allocations to road repair damage in the Eastern Cape and the expenditure as at 30 March 2023:

District	Total Flood Damages	Total Allocation	Number of Roads Repaired	Total expenditure @ 30 March 2023
Alfred Nzo	R 337,870,000.00	R 58,477,945.31	16	R 38,990,000.00
Amathole	R 248,640,000.00	R 79,464,058.00	22	R 71,619,858.80
Chris Hani	R 172,979,900.00	R 40,683,353.97	7	R 25,873,353.97
Joe Gqabi	R 151,000,000.00	R 35,513,874.44	10	R 35,513,874.44
Or Tambo	R 450,105,100.00	R 105,860,768.28	46	R 105,860,768.28
Total	R 1,360,595,000.00	R 320,000,000.00	101	R 277,857,855.49

The Northwest Road Network was reportedly implementing several flood damage road repair projects across the province's Districts. None of these have yet reached over 80 percent completion. All Road Authorities have been negatively affected by the 2023 floods whose damage reversed the implementation progress made.

## 2.7 Auditor-General of South Africa

There were no significant findings beyond those raised in the Auditor-General's *First Special Report on Flood Relief Funds* presented during the Ad Hoc Joint Committee's first session, as no additional expenditure had occurred since the First Special Report's tabling. This meant that no separate Second Special Report would be issued, as initially envisaged, and that any new findings would be incorporated into the 2021-22 *Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) General Consolidated Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes*. Through the MFMA General Report, the AG continued to audit the funds used to provide relief to communities in the flood affected areas of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces.

The 2022 Consolidated General Report on Local Government Audit Outcomes was duly tabled to the Committee, with specific focus on flood disaster related findings. Many of the problems identified in the First Special Report remained persistent, including undue delays in the implementation of disaster relief efforts, weak internal controls, inadequate intergovernmental coordination, failure to spend allocated resources within the prescribed timeframe, and ineffective contract monitoring that contributed to many of the service delivery failures. These problems mainly stemmed from lack of key disciplines within municipalities. However, there were some pockets of good practice as represented by the Winnie-Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality, which exercised strong monitoring and oversight over the implementation of its disaster relief projects.

At the time of the briefing, the auditing of provincial and national governments was still underway. The Committee later had an opportunity to receive a briefing from the AGSA on findings relating to flood relief expenditure as captured in the current 2022/23 Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)



reporting cycle. Selected for audit were the Department of Water and Sanitation; Amatola Water Board; Umngeni Water Board; KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Provincial Departments of Education, Human Settlements, Transport, and Health; the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa; Transnet; the South African Roads Agency Limited; and the Property Management Trading Entity.

Notwithstanding some highlights of exemplary practice, the PFMA audit identified several deficiencies akin to those presented to the previous Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Flood Disasters and Recovery. These related to inadequate disaster management plans at the auditee level; inaccurate assessment of flood damages; the planning of projects that was not informed by adequate needs assessment; continued spending delays and delivery failures; inefficient and ineffective delivery due to lack of coordination; procurement breaches characterised by continued deviations, non-compliance with processes and non-submission of documentation; and poor contract management including non-compliance with specifications.

Found to have exacerbated the flood disaster's impact were factors relating to lack of infrastructure maintenance; non-availability of suitable alternative land for building temporary residential units to accommodate flood victims; non-compliance with the Spatial and Land Use Management Act resulting in the erection of human settlements in flood-prone areas; and inadequate budgeting for threshold funding as set out in the Disaster Management Act (2002). The commitments made to address these deficiencies were still underway and the AGSA undertook to continue tracking their implementation. One of the key conclusions to be drawn from the PFMA audit is that the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic have not yet gained sufficient traction. The pace of learning remains slow, and this is a cause for concern as delayed interventions prolong the affected communities' hardships. Also underscored was the need to build disaster response capabilities, including the necessary disciplines, skills, monitoring, and controls, as this is key to addressing the root causes behind many of the identified deficiencies.

## **2.8 eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality**

---

The municipality was requested to report on progress in addressing the city's water and sanitation crisis emanating from the April/May 2022 flood disaster, including the rehabilitation of the Tongaat Water Treatment Works, and any other related interventions since the last report to the Committee on 23 August 2022. Regarding power supply, the city reported that the provision of interim power supply to the SAPREF crude oil refinery was completed in September 2022 at an estimated cost of R3.3m. A permanent 132 kV solution will cost approximately R88.5m, and its implementation depends on funding availability and resumption of refining activities.

Repairs to the 132 kV Edwin Swales Switching Station were completed in November 2022 at an estimated cost of R2.2m. A tender for new relays is being finalised as the cleaning and drying out of water damaged circuit boards proved fruitless. Installation of new protection and control equipment will cost approximately R24.1m and is scheduled for completion by December 2024. A contract for the replacement of the 11 kV switchboard at the Toyota substation has been awarded to the value of R48m. Work was envisaged for completion in June 2023. Approximately 106 capital projects were reportedly underway in connection with the refurbishment, replacement, and construction of new electricity infrastructure.

On water and sanitation, the municipality reported that as at 09 September 2022, the water provision status was 95 percent in the Inner West Region, 85 percent in the Outer West Region, 90 percent in the Central Region, 75 percent in the South Region, and 80 percent in North Region respectively. The final commissioning of the Tongaat Water Treatment Works was completed on 15 November 2022. As of 17 January 2023, water access has been fully restored. Five of eight Reservoir Supply Zones have had their water reticulation restored in full via the Tongaat Waterworks, while the remaining three have been restored through alternate supply.

The South Coast Water Augmentation Pipeline, including supply to the Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, has been completed. Gabion protection works have been completed in respect of the Hillcrest, Dassenhoek and Drummond bulk pipelines that were washed away by the April/May 2022 heavy rains. Remedial work for the Wyebank Reservoir is 98 percent complete. Of nine Wastewater Treatment Works, only KwaMashu and Glenwood Road have been restored to full functionality. Some pumps remain non-functional: nearly half of the pumps in the North, South and Central Zones, and a quarter of the pumps in the West Zone.

Regarding road and bridge rehabilitation progress, work was ongoing in respect of Umlazi Access and Berm as the main contractor had been appointed. Work on this project was previously stalled due an outstanding Memorandum of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the



municipality and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport. The project cost is estimated to be R34m but only R15m was currently available although the project is scheduled for completion by June 2023. Council approved the City's participation in the Welisisizwe Rural Bridges Programme, which is an interdepartmental programme initiated to respond to river crossings emergencies.

On the Human Settlements front, it was reported that all mass care centres were closed by 24 December 2022, and all households have been provided with alternate accommodation. However, a real time audit identified several anomalies in respect of building material voucher supply and the execution of material supply programme by the metro. Regarding disaster funding, a second tranche of disaster rehabilitation funding amounting to R1.5bn has been received from the Municipal Disaster Response Grant.

## **2.9 Portfolio Committee on Basic Education**

---

The Committee was requested to report on oversight work undertaken to minimise the impact of flood disasters on schooling. In response, the Committee indicated that it had not convened meetings with the relevant Provincial Education Departments to receive a briefing on the matter referred by the Ad Hoc Joint Committee, as it believes that the matter referred to it is part of a tabled report and does not constitute an official referral.

## **2.10 Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

---

The Committee was requested report on the oversight work done around facilitating access to supply of drinking water in the uGu District and Tongaat, particularly after the April/May 2022 flooding incidents. In this regard, the Committee convened a briefing with the national Department of Water and Sanitation, national and KwaZulu-Natal Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Ugu District municipality, and the city of eThekweni in October 2023. Several initiatives were reported to be underway to address the water supply constraints in the affected areas. These include the Umkomazi water project and other long-term water infrastructure projects. The Committee resolved to continue monitoring these initiatives to ensure that the water scarcity is addressed both in the short and long term.

## **2.11 Outstanding Progress Reports**

---

**National Treasury** is yet to report on the expenditure of approved disaster funding by provinces and municipalities since the last briefing to the Committee on 12 August 2022; the disbursement of disaster relief donations that had been paid into the National Revenue Fund, and reconsideration of the budget reductions in respect of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development.

**The Portfolio and Select Committees on Water and Sanitation** are yet to report on the oversight work done around facilitating access to supply of drinking water in the uGu District and Tongaat, particularly after the April/May 2022 flooding incidents.

**The Portfolio and Select Committees on Social Development, Health and Social Services** have not yet reported on oversight work done in relation to psychosocial and humanitarian support in the aftermath of the April/May 2022 flood disaster.

Progress reports from the **Portfolio and Select Committees on Human Settlements** regarding oversight work undertaken in relation to housing provision in the May/April 2022 flood disaster aftermath also remain outstanding.

Finally, the **Portfolio Committees on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment** are yet to provide update on oversight work undertaken relating to engaging the North-West provincial government and the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality on geotechnical solutions to minimise the impact of environmental hazard associated with the erection of human settlements in flood plains.

## **3. FACT-FINDING VISITS TO AFFECTED PROVINCES**

From 19 June 2023 the Ad Hoc Joint Committee conducted fact-finding visits to the provinces affected by the December 2022 and February 2023 floods, starting with the Gauteng province (19-21 June 2023) and followed by the KwaZulu-Natal province (27-30 June 2023), Eastern Cape province (22-23 August 2023), North-West and Free State province (24 – 25 August 2023 and a follow-up to the North-West on 24 November 2023), Mpumalanga province (02 – 03 November 2023) and Limpopo province (14 – 15 November 2023). A special visit to the Sedibeng District in Gauteng took place in July 2023 and a follow-up visit to Gauteng was undertaken from 07 – 08 November 2023. These visits sought to corroborate the information received from the responsible political representatives and officials against the affected communities' lived experiences.





### **3.1. Gauteng Province (18 - 21 June 2023 and follow-up on 07 – 08 November 2023)**

---

#### **▪ Gauteng Provincial Government**

During the Committee's initial oversight visit to the province, the MEC responsible for the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs led the Provincial Government's input on the Premier's behalf as the latter was engaged in another commitment abroad. In its disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of the December 2022 and February 2023 floods, the Department reportedly enjoyed a good, cooperative working relationship with the City of Johannesburg. This positive cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations experience was difficult to achieve in the City of Tshwane. The financial loss and the cost of repairing flood-damaged infrastructure during the period under discussion has been quantified and the relevant applications submitted to the National Disaster Management Centre.

In a subsequent briefing relating to the Sedibeng District, the MEC highlighted the Evaton township under the Emfuleni Local Municipality as having been most severely affected by the February 2023 flooding incidents due to its low-lying topography. Sebokeng, Palm Springs, Lakeside, Zone 3, Small Farm, Boitumelo, Rietspruit, Golden Gardens, Polokong, Tshepiso Phase 3, MiraVaal and Rosashof were also seriously affected. Exacerbating the flood impact was the opening of ten sluice gates at the Vaal Dam, resulting in severe damages to private properties, roads, and bridges (including a bridge in the provincial R54 road), and informal settlements.

A total of 104 people from Evaton, Barrage and Lochvaal areas who were displaced were provided with temporary accommodation, which has since been discontinued as people returned to their original homes. The location of these homes remains unsafe and renders them vulnerable to future flooding incidents. Parliament's effort to get the district to cooperate with disaster relief and recovery interventions was appreciated. At the time of the briefing, the provincial government had not yet received a post-disaster funding request from the affected municipalities within Sedibeng.

In a subsequent follow-up visit to the province, the Gauteng Premier was available to receive and welcome the Committee. The Premier's welcoming remarks alluded to the increasing frequency of natural and man-made disasters within the province, including the sinkholes affecting areas such as Khutsong and Centurion, fires, and the road explosion recently witnessed in the City of Johannesburg. As a response, the provincial government has formulated a Steering Committee tasked with looking into the allocation of disaster response resources, and the skills needed to deal with disasters. The establishment of permanent search and rescue teams, while outside the scope of the provincial government's ordinary work, is another innovation that would obviate the need to start afresh whenever a disaster strikes.

Another critical intervention relates to coordination and role clarification among the three government spheres as to foster joint disaster management and sharing of responsibilities. A challenge to be overcome in this regard is around the classification and declaration of the road explosion in Johannesburg as a local disaster, taking into cognisance the fact that the city and the provincial government do not have the requisite financial resources to respond meaningfully to the incident. However, the national government has so far declined the requested disaster classification and declaration. Disasters call for a speedy intervention, but the highly regulatory framework hampers disaster response agility. Budgets are availed a long time after disaster incidents and the spending of these funds is often slow. In the Premier's view, there is no excuse for the non-utilisation of disaster funding, and there should be serious consequences for those responsible.

To ensure that non-governmental organisations do not continue overshadowing government's role in disaster management, the provincial government has introduced an intergovernmental service delivery front comprising all provincial government line function departments. Khutsong in the West Rand is one of the sites in which this new method of working is being tested in response to the sinkhole problem. In this regard, solution-oriented proposals have been put forward, but the required interventions remain minimal. Dealing effectively with the Khutsong problem will require the building of a new city, which is not provided for in the current disaster funding arrangement. A Commission of Inquiry to guide the provincial government's approach to non-natural disasters is contemplated.



Following the premier's input, the provincial government – once again led by the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs - reported that only the City of Johannesburg and the Emfuleni Local Municipality had applied for disaster relief funding. The City of Johannesburg received a disaster response grant allocation amounting to R55.2m, which was transferred to the municipality on 15 June 2023 in connection with the December 2022 floods. A second tranche amounting to R6.5m relates to the February 2023 flooding and was currently being processed at the time of the briefing. The funds fall short of the R356.1m requested by the city and the reason for this is that the R42.2m of the requested funding relates to projects already covered by insurance, which the Municipal Disaster Response Grant does not cover. Furthermore, R220.4m of the requested funds is catered for through the Municipal Emergency Housing Grant.

However, only R4.7m or 0.4 percent of the allocated R55.2m has been spent by the city to date, reportedly due to environmental authorisation requirements. The city was yet to submit a revised project implementation plan or a letter requesting that the grant be extended beyond the stipulated six-month implementation period. The Emfuleni Local Municipality on the other hand only submitted its R472m funding application on 01 September 2023 and therefore still awaited the outcome of its submission. There is renewed focus on infrastructure maintenance, which is expected to resolve the municipality's sewage crisis past the year 2024. Should this intervention be successful, it will be replicated in other municipalities experiencing similar problems. The province has managed to undertake complementary work with the Sedibeng District to fill the gaps resulting from its non-functional disaster management centre. Regarding the City of Tshwane, it was indicated that 142 people were still accommodated in the Nelmapius Community Hall shelter and that the targeted time-frame for their relocation is March 2024. The MEC concluded by appreciating the Committee's visit as it always brings improvements.

- ***City of Tshwane***

Coordinating the municipality's inputs on the Executive Mayor's behalf whose non-attendance was regretted by the Committee, the Member of the Mayor Committee (MMC) responsible for Community Safety delegated the relevant personnel to guide the Committee through the city's flood disaster interventions. The December 2022 and February 2023 flooding incidents reportedly affected Regions 02, 04 and 06 most severely. Due to its flat topography, a high-water table, and an acute lack of proper water drainage systems, Region 02 in Hammanskraal has been particularly vulnerable to flooding with informal settlements being mostly affected.

Militating against the city's post flood disaster interventions was a variety of cross-cutting issues relating to land scarcity, undocumented foreign nationals, provision of land without the associated water and electricity infrastructure, illegal metre connections, infrastructure vandalism and the city's well known liquidity problem. Resolving some of these challenges will require partnerships with key relevant Departments such as Agriculture and Land Reform to release land owned in trust, and Home Affairs to assist with the repatriation of undocumented foreign nationals. Although the city has established a land invasion prevention unit, this is not yielding the desired result as most illegal land occupation occurs in private land where the city has no jurisdiction. The city's land invasion efforts have also been hamstrung by legal challenges instituted by Human Rights lawyers.

There were reportedly still 148 people housed in the Nelmapius Community Hall following the February 2023 flooding. The relocation of people from flood risk areas is being instituted in three phases, with the municipality having concluded a funding agreement with the provincial government to implement this exercise. On the social development front, the city reportedly activated all the necessary services to support the people housed in the community hall, including psychosocial support and food provision. Transportation for school-going children has been provided and lost identity documents have been replaced. The shelter's prolonged existence has made it difficult to sustain these interventions as they were understood to be temporary and not envisaged to continue beyond a month.

- ***City of Johannesburg***

In welcoming the Committee and prefacing the city's presentation, the Mayor of Johannesburg highlighted the need for a holistic approach to the various disaster risk typologies facing the city, including flood disasters. This was especially important in view of the city's strategic location as the



economic hub of South Africa and the rest of the African continent. However, for this objective to be realized, the city's financial position needs to be improved as the current internal financial capacity is insufficient to address the various disaster risks comprehensively.

The city's consolidated presentation outlined the extent of damage experienced in connection with the floods of December 2022, the interventions instituted, and the lessons learnt. Most of the damaged dwellings are in the city's Regions D and G, inclusive of Meadowlands, Mofolo South and Central, Nancefield, Klispruit, Dube Village, Orlando East, Pimville, Protea Glen, White City, part of Kliptown, Mandela Square and Hospital View. The city has mainly relied on its contingency fiscal reserves to fund its immediate disaster relief response. Factors hampering effective disaster response include inadequate capacity within the city's Disaster Management Unit, which is a consequence of insufficient funding. Long term plans to reduce the city's vulnerability to flood disasters include implementing a community-based or community-driven disaster response plan that is likely to be more effective than a purely top-down approach, addressing the city's parlous state of finances to grow its revenue and reduce negative audit findings, and implementation of the city's climate change action plan.

In a follow up visit to the province, the Executive Mayor emphasized the need to marshal all the available resources to aid recovery in the disaster stricken areas. A critical challenge arising in this regard is that the value of the needed replacement houses exceeds the maximum subsidy quantum permissible in terms of the law. The municipality and affected residents are unable to find common ground in this regard. The Department of Human Settlements has not approved the city's R248m funding application for housing relocation projects. The city has secured a court order empowering it to disestablish human habitats located in disaster prone areas.

At the time of the briefing, the city was attending to two critical projects: one related to permanent repairs to the water main line that had erupted in Protea South, and other concerned repairs to a sewer pipeline that had been washed away in Roodepoort West, which has since been restored to service. Six projects involving bridge reconstruction are still at a design stage but are scheduled for completion in February 2024. Project expenditure amounted to nine percent however the Committee was assured that all allocated funds would soon be exhausted. To this end, an application to extend the grant expenditure deadline has been drafted. A major source of delay related to securing Environmental Impact Assessment authorisation and water use licenses as the city has had to follow the normal application processes after missing the 48 hour disaster emergency window.

- ***Sedibeng District***

The district was not part of the areas covered during the initial oversight visit to the Gauteng province as it had been unresponsive to the Committee's requests to engage it in relation to the December 2022 and February 2023 flooding incidents. Consequently, from 07 to 08 July 2023 the Co-Chairperson from the Committee's National Assembly membership contingent, undertook a special oversight visit to Sedibeng to establish the facts around the district's flooding exposure and its non-responsiveness to the Committee's initial request to interact with it. The district mayor explained that the municipality was not in receipt of the Committee's initial oversight invitation. As prescribed in Section 54(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act (2002), the district is primarily responsible for the coordination and management of local disasters that occur in its area.

The district has been vulnerable to flooding due to illegal extension of human settlements into flood-prone areas. The local municipalities under the district have also not been adhering to the disaster management plans for the area. It was advised that the establishment of disaster management centre in the district would go a long way in addressing this issue. During the Committee's follow-up visit to the Gauteng province, the district Mayor appealed for the Committee's intervention regarding the assignment of functions to district municipalities without the concomitant financial resources. This results in local municipalities taking over the district functions, which erodes the district's relevance.

- ***Emfuleni Local Municipality***

Having profusely apologized for not honouring the Committee's initial oversight engagement because it coincided with the municipal financial year end, the Emfuleni mayor indicated that the municipality did not have much to present to Parliament as it did not have the requisite resources to deal with the



disaster aftermath. The municipality funded flood disaster response interventions using its limited contingency funds. The municipality will welcome a future oversight visit by the Committee's full contingent.

In a follow up visit to the province, the mayor expressed appreciation for the support received from the provincial government and district municipality in terms of disaster management. An undertaking was made to the effect that people residing in flood prone areas in Boitumelo will be relocated and the evacuated houses demolished as to prevent reoccupation. The review of the municipality's Spatial Development Framework is envisaged to correct many of the land use management mistakes that have resulted in the erection of human settlements in hazardous areas. Capacity constraints, including the attachment of municipal bank accounts by Rand Water and Eskom, delayed post disaster assessments and resulted in the late submission of the municipality's post disaster funding application.

**Table 1: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Gauteng province**

<p><i>Ramotse Village (Ward 95), Tshwane</i></p>	<p>The village is located on the floodplain of the Apies River. It is flooded whenever there is rain. The land is waterlogged which makes it prone to flooding. There is no access bridge to the village which completely cuts it off whenever there are floods. The community feels neglected by the municipality as there are no services such as road maintenance, grass cutting and general provision of infrastructure. The Committee could not have meaningful engagements around the City of Tshwane's post disaster interventions in this area as the key responsible city personnel did not accompany it, despite having promised to do so.</p>
<p><i>Nelmapius Community Hall, Tshwane</i></p>	<p>The Committee was addressed by various community leaders who disputed the information the city provided around the number of shelter occupants, their length of stay, and the humanitarian assistance given. The occupants were relocated from the Mavuso informal settlement and have been in the shelter since 05 February 2022. There has been no communication from the municipality regarding the timelines for the provision of alternative accommodation. The prolonged stay in the shelter is breeding tensions with the rest of community as the hall is no longer accessible to it.</p> <p>The living conditions in the shelter were deplorable: there was no privacy, babies have been born in the place, no food is provided with the occupants having to buy their own food and cook for themselves, break-ins and burglaries were common-place, safety was compromised, and ablution facilities were non-functional and needed urgent repair. As a result, the occupants felt that they were worse off than before relocation. It was hoped that the Committee's presence will make a difference as attempts to solicit assistance from government have been in vain.</p>
<p><i>Meadowlands, Johannesburg</i></p>	<p>The area is a wetland that had been submerged in water following the December 2022 floods. At the time of the Committee's visit, the water had since subsided, and people have returned to their original homes. The flood crisis in the area dates to 2009 when the aged underground Braam Fischer water drainage system started channelling the accumulated water to the area, thus exacerbating its vulnerability. The city has since attended to immediate restoration imperatives such as replacement of lost identity documents. Rehabilitation efforts remain hamstrung by funding unavailability including lack of funds to assist flood victims with rebuilding after returning from evacuation.</p>
<p><i>Nancefield, Johannesburg</i></p>	<p>The New Canada Dam's collapse from the heavy rains channelled the excess water to the Klipspruit Valley Road, which is situated at the dam's berm, and the adjacent eMalahleni informal settlement and Nancefield hostel. Following the December 2022 rains, the road was closed in its entirety as it posed serious safety risks. At the time of the Committee's visit the road was ready for reopening. The city plans to embark on dyke construction in the road's vicinity to prevent future water ingress.</p>
<p><i>Kliptown, Johannesburg</i></p>	<p>The site visited by the Committee in this part of Kliptown was lined with holes filled with puddles of stagnant dirty water flowing from a dysfunctional</p>



	<p>underground water drainage system in the opposite Walter Sisulu Freedom Square. The site was not only a potential breeding ground for water-borne diseases, but also posed a drowning risk to small children. Only two weeks was needed to effect urgent repairs to the stormwater and drainage system, but the city has not pursued this due to budget constraints.</p>
<p><i>Lenasia, Johannesburg</i></p>	<p>In this area the Committee visited a site known as Mosquito Valley, whose location along the Klipriver made it vulnerable to flooding during each rainy season. During the most recent flooding incident, residents had to be subjected to boat rescue. The settlement originated from the forcible removals associated with promulgation of the Group Areas Act during the apartheid era. The residents who addressed the Committee felt that the City of Johannesburg does not have sufficient capacity to address the area's susceptibility to flooding. Various government delegations have visited the area several times, and scoping reports have been commissioned but no action has followed.</p> <p>The community has its own solution to address the problem, which the mayor welcomed. This involves unblocking two bridges as to prevent water from overflowing to the nearby marsh. This needs to be done by September 2023 before the onset of the rainy season. This will also address the flooding risks in other areas around Mosquito Valley's vicinity. The main constraint is lack of funding, and in this regard the community leaders will be submitting their proposals to the City of Johannesburg council. At the time of the Committee's visit, people were still rebuilding and recovering from the December 2022 flood damage using their own funds.</p>
<p><i>Boitumelo, Emfuleni</i></p>	<p>In this site, the Committee was informed that there are six houses earmarked for relocation away from the flood-prone area. However, as the relevant officials were absent, the municipality could not answer the Committee's questions around the total number of houses affected by the flooding incidents, as to justify the R296.5m required to rebuild these damaged settlements. Even the municipal manager could not provide the required information. It also emerged that the houses were bank properties, but the municipality has taken liability as these banks were no longer operational. The Committee queried why government should be involved if these houses were bank properties.</p>
<p><i>Falcon Road, Emfuleni</i></p>	<p>There were several projects that had been initiated to rehabilitate this road, which had been washed away during February 2023 flooding incident. The projects, some of which involved the provincial government, were still at the procurement stage and had missed the initially anticipated inception date of September 2023.</p>
<p><i>Selbourne Road, Emfuleni</i></p>	<p>Sewer spillage was the primary cause of damage to this road and the flooding exacerbated the problem. The priority was to prevent discharge into the nearby catchment that flows to the Vaal River. The rehabilitation of this road is part of the Section 63 intervention in terms of the Water Services Act, which is led by the Department of Water and Sanitation. The intervention has been underway since August 2022 and there are 18 months left to conclude the project.</p>

### **3.1. KwaZulu-Natal Province (28 -30 June 2023)**

Upon the Committee's arrival in the province, a mini tornado, which was later downgraded to a landspout, touched down between Inanda and Phoenix, north of Durban, snapping branches off trees, picking up loose debris and causing damage to homes. The areas of Ntuzuma, KwaMashu, Folweni, Scottburgh in the South Coast, Dube Village, the Selborne Golf Estate, Port Shepstone, and Pinetown were affected. Having gone to inspect the damage in some of the affected areas, the Committee resumed its original programme and received briefings as follows:

- ***KwaZulu-Natal provincial government***

The Deputy Director-General (DDG) responsible for Development and Planning from the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs presented a consolidated report encompassing updates from the relevant sector departments on interventions relating to the April/May



2022 floods. Highlighted were issues around recovery of people still missing since the 2022 floods, psychosocial support to people decanted from mass centres to Transitional Emergency Accommodation (TEA), land parcels linked to the TEA, construction of Temporary Residential Units (TRUs), disaster response grant allocation and expenditure trends, matters arising from real-time audits, rehabilitation of damaged roads, an overview of the February 2023 flooding incidents, and disaster response challenges encountered.

According to information received from the South African Police Service (SAPS), 25 unclaimed bodies were still in mortuaries, although only 19 of these bodies could be linked to the floods with a reasonable degree of certainty. The DNA process has been completed in relation to the identification of six bodies, but the process has been marred by passage of time which has seen decomposition of bodies. On the social development front, work is ongoing around the provision of psycho-social support to the flood victims housed in TEA, with 39 social workers having been deployed in this regard. Social worker shortage due to budgetary constraints remains a major problem. A bid to National Treasury for increased social work funding is underway.

Concerning grant allocation, R406m has been disbursed to municipalities for emergency repairs. Due to various challenges, these funds have not been spent within the prescribed six-month period resulting in granting of extension up 30 June 2023, the municipal financial year end. The eThekweni metro and the KwaDukuza Local Municipality are where these challenges have been mostly reported, but the accounting officers are seized with resolving these. The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) has visited the province to assess project progress in connection with the grants allocated.

Although work on the rehabilitating of the Tongaat Water Treatments Works has been completed, water and sanitation provision challenges in the Tongaat area persist due to the demand exceeding supply. Residents log approximately 20 calls a day to report water shortages. This problem is not confined to the eThekweni municipal area but affects the whole province. Consequently, a comprehensive water Master Plan has been developed in partnership with Umgeni Water where the problems of high-water losses and aging infrastructure have been prioritized. The Water and Sanitation Minister has also convened a Task Team to address the province's water crisis. The need to enhance the War on Leaks programme to address the high-water losses and create job opportunities for unemployed youth was highlighted as another critical intervention. Treasury was also called upon to consider making mandatory the spending of eight percent of a municipality's budget on maintenance as most municipalities currently spend around two to three percent.

Restoration work at the Bayhead area has been completed. On the human settlements front, 567 families have been assisted with building materials. The AG's findings in respect of building materials found lying unutilized were due to some people that had refused the materials as they did not want to return to their original homes. All mass care centres were closed by 24 December 2022 and the occupants moved to TEA. Each TEA has been linked to a land parcel to ensure a permanent solution by 2024. A total of 13 land parcels have been identified and have been deemed sufficient to accommodate all the people currently housed in TEA.

Real-time audits hampered agility in the rollout of human settlements solutions in that it took some time to ensure that all procurement processes have been complied with before project implementation. Also compounding the human settlements problem is the proliferation of mud structures, whose resolution is contingent upon the allocation of a dedicated budget to the Human Settlements Department. An emergency housing business unit also needs to be established to address the province's flooding susceptibility.

On education, work is underway in response to audit findings on classroom construction work that did not meet the required standards. No financial loss has occurred in this regard as no expenditure has been incurred. Regarding the rehabilitation of damaged roads and bridges, an update was provided in connection with R21m that has been secured to reconstruct the bridge in Nhlungwane road where a life was lost due to the removal of a road closure sign. The estimated completion date for this work, which is headed by the Transport Department, is November 2023. On flooding incidents that took place in February 2023, it was indicated that the damage extent was higher in the northern coastal and inland regions, as opposed to the April/May 2022 floods that mostly affected the southern coastal regions.



Regarding the disaster response challenges encountered, it was indicated that vast improvements are still needed in respect of the province’s state of disaster readiness. In this regard, the provincial government will host a provincial disaster management summit to address this question. Resource sharing in a disaster aftermath has been problematic as it had not been formalized. A formal agreement has been concluded in this regard, including a post-disaster donation policy. The need for rapid assessment and quantification of disaster financial impact leads to incorrect estimates that prevent the affected state organs from receiving funding that is commensurate with the damage.

There is also often disjuncture between the initial funding damage estimates and the final estimates. A case in point was the Crescent bridge site previously visited by Committee where the initial estimate of R2m burgeoned to R6m due to new infrastructural damages not considered in the previous estimates. To rectify this, the provincial government is considering a post-disaster assessment panel that will ensure due diligence and more realistic post disaster assessment. The long delays in grant allocation, where disaster funds are disbursed years after the incident, also negates the funding’s emergency nature. The Provincial Disaster Management Centre’s structure also needs review to ensure that it is fit for purpose. A further call was made in connection with the need to shift the current emphasis on disaster response funding to disaster risk reduction as many municipalities are financially constrained from addressing the latter adequately.

- **City of eThekweni**

The input by the provincial government covered most of the issues, which the City of eThekweni would have presented. However, the Deputy Mayor felt it imperative to bring to the Committee’s attention an ‘elephant in the room’ with respect to service delivery delays and slow disaster response due to inconducive Supply Chain Management (SCM) processes. Being unencumbered by these processes, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are consequently often at the forefront during post disaster interventions while government, who is supposed to lead, lags.

The city’s disaster management system also does not take sufficient cognizance of climate change as the driving force behind the severe weather conditions seen in the province over the last few years. Budgeting for disasters is not always prioritized. A climate change summit will be convened to address some of these challenges. Echoing the Mayor’s input, the city’s disaster management head emphasized insufficient disaster management capacity, which manifested in the slow spending of disaster funds.

The council Speaker highlighted challenges around criminal organisations masquerading as ‘business forums’ that often blocked project progress by demanding a share of 30 to 40 percent of project budget, resulting in construction stoppage and abandoning of sites by contractors. The city will be augmenting the number of metro police to curb the infrastructure vandalism associated with these organisations. Corruption in the city’s SCM processes was another serious drawback, which has been partly addressed through the suspension of the city’s SCM head and removing the responsibility for chairing Bid Committees from junior officials to the Deputy City Manager.

- **Umngeni Water**

The Water Board briefed the Committee in detail on the work done to rehabilitate the two Nagle Aqueducts that had been damaged by the April/May 2022 floods. These are two of the four large diameter pipes that convey raw water from Nagle Dam to Durban Heights Water Treatment Works. The damage to the two pipes disrupted water supply to the equivalent of 1.6m people. Aqueduct No.1, which has a carrying capacity of 100 megalitres per day was planned for commissioning on 22 December 2022, and this has been successfully achieved. The pipe is currently in operation and has experienced no further failures. Aqueduct No.2, which has a carrying capacity 160 megalitres per day, was planned for commissioning on 30 June 2023, but delays have resulted in shifting of commissioning date to September 2023. A R690m budget was allocated for the rehabilitation work on the two aqueducts.

**Table 2: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the KwaZulu-Natal province**

<i>Tornado affected houses at Dube Village in the</i>	The Committee’s follow up visit to the province coincided with a landspout that touched down at Inanda and surrounding areas in the city
---	--



<p><i>Inanda area, City of eThekweni.</i></p>	<p>of eThekweni. A day after the incident, the Committee joined up with the eThekweni Mayor, the Minister of Human Settlements, and the Premier to inspect the consequent damage. Several houses were severely damaged with roofs and top structures blown away while some power lines were toppled. It was miraculous that none of the residents were seriously injured or lost their lives. The provincial government made several commitments in connection with urgent relief measures in the form of food parcels, building materials and other necessities. The city also committed to assist affected households to rebuild the damaged houses and restore damaged infrastructure.</p>
<p><i>Nagle Aqueducts 1 &amp; 2</i></p>	<p>To prevent it from being washed away again when the river swells, the Aqueduct 1 pipeline was elevated to ensure minimal water and boulder reach when the river is flooded. The rehabilitation of this pipelines has been completed on schedule. The repairs to Aqueduct 2 on the other hand involved submerging the pipelines under the ground to prevent rock damage during rockfalls whenever there are heavy rains. The Committee commended the Umngeni Water Board for the quality of work and progress made thus far.</p>
<p><i>Umlazi berm and access road interchange</i></p>	<p>The previous Ad Hoc Joint Committee visited the site in the aftermath of the April/May 2022 heavy rains that washed the berm away. At the time of the Committee's last visit in August 2022, the rehabilitation work was hampered by delays in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the city of eThekweni and the Department of Transport as this was a joint venture between the two state organs with each contributing 50 percent to the project budget. The Committee was informed that, following its intervention in this regard, the agreements had since been signed.</p> <p>Overall, the Committee had returned under better circumstances compared to the previous occasions. Much work had been done, including the installation of scour protection to prevent scouring in the event of similar future flooding incidents. The bridge's top structure, which had worsened the flood damage impact, has been demolished. The berm is virtually complete and will be fully operational once the Reno scour protection mattress is up and running. The previously leaking sewer pipe next to the berm has been repaired. Once the technical work is completed in July 2023, the focus will be on beautifying the place. The Committee expressed appreciation for the work done at this site.</p>
<p><i>Tongaat Water Treatment Works</i></p>	<p>The Works was severely damaged when the Tongaat river was flooded and swelled the nearby dam, which overflowed into the facility. Mostly affected was the facility's electrical and mechanical infrastructure while damage to the civil infrastructure was minimal. This had a knock-on effect and led to water supply disruption at the five reservoirs fed from the facility. Vehicular access to the site was impossible for quite some time as the road was washed away, thus delaying comprehensive assessment of damage. Engineers were given a brief to restore the facility to its original functionality within 105 days, which was an extremely tight deadline considering that projects of this nature usually require a minimum of two years to complete.</p> <p>Emergency procurement processes were utilized, including Section 36 of the Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations, to ensure that the deadline was met. Outstanding collaborative work amongst project partners enabled the facility's commissioning within schedule, budget, and specification. Pipe bursts were expected as the system had been non-operational for months, but the frequency has been higher than anticipated, both from the bulk supply side and the reticulation side. This is one of the reasons behind the water supply shortages experienced by</p>





	<p>the Tongaat community despite the facility's full restoration to its original capacity. Augmenting the facility's capacity is not feasible due to licensing limitations at the abstraction point.</p> <p>Replacement of the problematic pipes is one of the measures underway to assuage the water supply problem around the Tongaat area. The timeframe given for completing this undertaking is end of December 2023. The community was urged to play its part and report damaged pipes. More reliable metering is also needed to improve water loss quantification accuracy. The Committee commended the engineering team for its dedication, energy, passion, and timely execution of the mandate assigned to it.</p>
<p><i>Temporary Emergency Accommodation, Conway</i></p>	<p>This TEA is a compound bought from Tongaat Hullett in 2022 for housing development. It houses the flood victims previously accommodated in the Tongaat Hall, Caneland Training Centre, and the La Mercy Hall. The TEA has been occupied since November 2022. A densification project is planned to commence around March 2024 in the form of 300 housing units that will accommodate the 118 families currently occupying the TEA. The project budget has not yet been determined due to the various preliminary assessments that must be conducted. While the living conditions have improved compared to the experience seen in the shelters, access to food and other basic amenities remained a major concern. The city's budget for food provision has reportedly been depleted and this has affected food supply to all the TEA locations.</p> <p>Residents from the adjacent Frazer informal settlement have not been particularly welcoming as they felt that the new arrivals' service delivery needs were prioritised over theirs. While the City of eThekweni reported favourably on its difficult but successful effort to integrate the two communities, the TEA residents reported living in fear of their lives as there is no sufficient police protection from their discontented neighbours. For this reason, the residents are strongly opposed to the location of the planned housing units next to Fraser.</p> <p>Challenges around scholar transport affordability were also raised as the relocation increased the distance from the original places of schooling. Water supply to the TEA was also reportedly compromised during power outages. Residents further requested cutting of brush to reduce snake proliferation, and the Committee asked the councillor to attend to this. A representative from the provincial Department of Social Development's local office clarified that the TEA is in receipt of ongoing psychosocial support although budgetary constraints limit its extent.</p>
<p><i>Temporary Emergency Accommodation, ASTRA Building</i></p>	<p>This is a rented building that houses floods victims amounting to 320 families from approximately nine mass care centres. The Housing Development Agency (HDA) manages the building's daily operations. The accommodation has been secured for a 24-month rental period, which commenced in December 2022, and costs R2500 per bed per month. A total of 531 beds are occupied. The officials could not provide satisfactory answers to the Committee's questions around the exact rental costs vis-à-vis the number of occupied beds. The main complaint from the TEA occupants was hunger as most of them are unemployed and cannot buy their own food.</p>

### 3.2. Eastern Cape (22 – 23 August 2023)

- **Eastern Cape Provincial Government**



The Member of the Executive Council responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs led the provincial delegation on the Premier's behalf. The MEC emphasised the advent of climate change and its link to the recurring flood disasters seen over the last ten years in the province. The economic impact of these back-to-back flood disasters has been enormous, amounting to R1.8bn in 2022 and escalating to R4bn in the aftermath of the March 2023 flood disasters. Received disaster funding allocations have been a drop in the ocean as they have been far below the extent of damage. Of the R1.8bn required to address the aftermath of the 2022 disaster, only R109m has been received, which amounts to approximately 10 percent of the required amount. At the same time, the pace of disaster funding expenditure has been slower than expected but the province has devised strategies to deal with the issue, including the development of an expenditure tracking and monitoring tool.

The Deputy Director-General responsible for the disaster management workstream (among other responsibilities) delivered a consolidated presentation providing an overview of the province's disaster response in connection with the flooding incidents seen in April 2022, March 2023 and the gale force wind incident seen in August 2023. It was indicated that the province has not responded adequately to all the disasters that have affected it. Weaknesses in terms of temporary shelter provision, at both sectoral and municipal level, were particularly emphasized. Some of the shelters that had previously been erected were destroyed before permanent structures could be constructed. Families that are refusing to relocate to safer areas, and the fact that some potential relocation land parcels are currently subject to the land claim process, are other factors that have had a negative impact on the human settlements' response agility.

Inadequate disaster response funding was identified as a key problem inhibiting the province from responding adequately to these disasters, as there is no dedicated budget available, and the affected organs of state are expected to reprioritise funds from existing budgets. Post disaster funding in connection with the 2023 floods was received in June 2023 in the form of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Grant amounting to R125.9m for the whole province. This is also far below the estimated R4bn needed to respond adequately to these disasters. Weak disaster management capacity within the affected district municipalities has also rendered support to the relevant local municipalities ineffective. Delays in quantifying the disasters' economic and financial impact have had a knock-on effect on access to funding. The washing away of roads and bridges, coupled with bad terrain and topography, has made it difficult to gain timely access to the affected areas, thus making it nearly impossible to assess the damages in good time.

Also emphasized as an inhibiting factor was the tendency by accounting officers to respect the Public and Municipal Finance Management Acts to the extreme such that the emergency procurement procedures provided in this legislation were rarely utilised. Where post disaster funding applications had been submitted successfully, Treasury and the National Disaster Management Centre have not always responded timeously. Parliament was urged to attend to this matter. Recommended as a way forward in the context of increased disaster frequency was the institutionalisation of framework agreements as to abolish the necessity of starting new procurement processes whenever a disaster occurs.

- ***Port St Johns Local Municipality***

The Acting Mayor's preface to the municipality's presentation highlighted the enormity of the disasters' financial impact and the concomitant large amounts of money needed for the necessary repairs. The allocations received have not been commensurate with the extent of the damage incurred. Consequently, the municipality has been unable to attend to most of the areas affected by the recent disaster and remains thus constrained. While the Department of Transport has assisted with the reconstruction of damaged road infrastructure (including the R61), its interventions have been insufficient. The Municipal Manager noted that the provincial government's input overlapped with much of the municipality's report. An allocation of R20.5m for the 2023 flooding disaster was received in June 2023 against a funding request of R209m. Nine projects are earmarked for implementation using these funds. No expenditure has yet taken place, but the municipality anticipates having spent the money by November 2023. A deadline extension will be requested if this milestone is not achieved.

With respect to the 2022 flood disaster, the municipality applied for R197m but only received R13.3m, which is not even close to half the amount requested. With these funds, the municipality completed



four projects leaving a balance of R237 000, which was returned to the fiscus as the amount was too small to be committed to any meaningful project. The absence of suitable land within Port St Johns has constrained the municipality's human settlement response. Furthermore, the large amounts of money spent on temporary residential units could be utilised to build permanent structures. From a strategic point view, the overarching question is whether Port St Johns should remain where it is or be relocated especially in view of the rising water levels forecast to submerge the town by 2080. Should it be decided that town remains where it is, then substantial investment in drainage systems and special infrastructure will be necessary as seen in some coastal towns in countries like Egypt.

- **Human settlements**

The Department submitted that R1.8bn was required to enable adequate human settlements post disaster response in the province. However, only R237m of this has been received and this will hamper the Department's response effectiveness as not much can be done if the funding is inadequate. The OR Tambo District alone needs approximately R275.9m to cater for the 4333 households affected by floods over the last five years, but only R117.4m has been approved. Given negative lessons learned from the provision of temporary shelters in KwaZulu-Natal, the Department intends phasing out the use of mass care centres and temporary accommodation to focus on the provision of permanent solutions. This approach informs the Department's response to the latest disaster. To alleviate the impact of future flood disasters, the Department has embarked on a project to eradicate mud structures. However, the Housing Development Agency has failed the Department in this regard as it has not delivered in line with agreed upon objectives. A contractor has been appointed to augment capacity within the Agency.

- **OR Tambo District**

Having apologised for the absence of its representatives during the first day of the Committee's deliberations, the district indicated that its report and that of the Human Settlements Department were complementary. For the last five to ten years, the district has been prone to flood disasters. These disasters are now occurring annually. Considering this reality, the district has appointed a panel of 30 contractors to avoid having to institute a new procurement process whenever a disaster occurs. The district has concluded a R1.4bn agreement with the Human Settlements Department to implement 24 human settlements projects over a four-year period.

The district acknowledged that its human settlements response to the flood disasters lacked the sense of urgency expected in times of disaster. Of the 1256 homeless households in the district, only 600 have been assisted with shelters. Regarding the February/March 2023 housing infrastructure damage, only 22 homeless households have been assisted, out of 1063. Officials tended to follow lengthy procurement procedures, notwithstanding the deviations provided in the legislation. These deviations are avoided due to their tendency to attract audit queries.

The capacity of service providers was highlighted as a critical issue. Most were small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) who did not have sufficient cashflow to survive until payment at the completion of a project. The practice of paying these service providers only at the end of the project disadvantages them. Misuse of disaster response funds was highlighted with reference to an amount of R41.7m that was not used for the intended purpose of erecting temporary shelters for flood affected communities. Although the responsible officials have resigned to avoid consequence management, the municipality intends pursuing just administrative action to its logical conclusion.

The district received R46.8m to repair 14 of its Wastewater Treatment Works that were damaged in the wake of the April 2022 floods. The municipality was unable to utilise the grant within the stipulated six-month period due to delays in procuring equipment from abroad. Having been granted extension, the municipality was able to repair all the 14 treatment works within the given budget and to the satisfaction of the National Disaster Management Centre. However, access to potable water remains a sensitive and volatile issue in the district. The district has also gained notoriety for poor grant expenditure. The province is devising measures to address the district's poor spending habits.

**Table 3: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Eastern Cape province**



<i>Nkwilini bridge</i>	Built as a crossing over the Mngazi river, the bridge was flooded during the March 2023 heavy rains. This occurred for the first time in the entire history of the bridge's existence. There was no way for the municipality to foresee and therefore mitigate the flooding impact on the bridge.
<i>Collapsed road surface on the R191.</i>	The road's surface was washed away completely, proving that the floods of March 2023 were more forceful compared to the previous years' experience. The enormity and extent of this flooding incident went far beyond what the municipality could have anticipated.
<i>Mngazana bridge on TR305</i>	Located on the TR305, which is under the Department of Transport's jurisdiction, the restoration on this bridge is a collaborative effort between the Department, the OR Tambo district, and the Port St Johns local municipality. As in the Nkwilini bridge case, the extent of damage seen in this bridge was unprecedented.
<i>TR29 sinkhole</i>	Post disaster repairs on this site have not yet commenced, but the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has, in the previous week, appointed a contractor. Actual work is expected to start within the next few weeks. The Committee emphasized the importance of starting this work before December 2023, when the summer rains are expected.
<i>Green farm informal settlement</i>	As the Committee had previously noted, this informal settlement is situated on a flood line. The Chaguba Community Property Association owns the land in which the settlement is located. In winter, the area appears conducive to human habitation, but the problem becomes evident once the summer rains fall. Most of the residents are tenants who are willing to move to an alternative location if this does not interfere with their access to amenities and services. However, the landlords (most of whom do not live in the area) are not in support of relocation. Negotiations are still underway to obtain suitable land should relocation prove feasible. The municipality is also planning to extend the Port St Johns town's development away from the hazardous zones. The profiling of people living in this informal settlement remains an outstanding matter. Statistics in this regard are reportedly available from the responsible ward councillor but still need to be consolidated. Once consolidated, the report will be forwarded to the Committee within two weeks from the date of the oversight visit.
<i>KwaNonyevu informal settlement</i>	In terms of the Human Settlement's categorisation, KwaNonyevu is a category C informal settlement, meaning that it is situated on land where total relocation is imperative. However, the Committee found some people continuing to lay foundations in preparation for building despite being informed that the area is not conducive to human settlement. On being questioned by the delegation, the builder replied that he needed to be closer to his place of work in town. The Committee visited one of the three temporary residential units erected in the aftermath of the 2022 floods. The unit's condition was found to be acceptable and adequate.

All the damaged roads and bridges visited by the Committee were under the Department of Transport's jurisdiction. Reconstruction and rehabilitation responsibility therefore vested in the Department. However, as no officials from the Department were present to brief the Committee, there was no detailed and structured information received from these sites.

### **3.3. North-West (24 August 2023 and follow-up on 24 November 2023)**

#### **▪ North-West Provincial Government**

The Provincial delegation was led by the MEC for Finance in the Province, Ms. M Rosho. The MEC informed the Committee that an accelerated intervention (Thuntsa Lerole) has been initiated in the province, through which government services are being brought closer to communities. The intervention is led by the Premier and areas in the Maquassi Hills and Madibeng local municipalities, respectively, have benefited from the intervention. The MEC acknowledged that whilst great strides have been made in the implementation of certain projects, other projects experience challenges.

An update on the major issues raised by the Committee during the previous oversight visit was provided. The first of this is that delays in the payment of service providers have mostly been resolved. Support has also since been provided to affected farmers and consensus has been reached with the Deelpan community on the provision of permanent structures, as opposed to the provision of Temporary Relocation Units. Road works on the access roads to Lombardslaagte are included in the



government response plan with Witpan access roads identified for future implementation. A matter that could not be resolved was the compensation to communities as there is no policy provision for the payment of compensation to those affected by disasters.

- **Human Settlements**

The Department received an allocation of R59.9 million from the National Department of Human Settlements for housing projects. The local traditional authority has donated twenty-nine (29) hectares of land for the relocation of those affected by the April/May 2022 floods. In respect of phase one of the human settlements project, a contractor has been appointed to construct 103 houses that will be constructed on five (05) hectares of the twenty – nine hectares made available. The geotechnical, environmental, traffic and engineering studies have concluded for phase one and the estimated completion date for the phase is 31 March 2024.

Housing units for the second phase will be constructed on the remaining twenty - four (24) hectares. The Provincial Department has commissioned the Housing Development Agency (HDA) to start the preliminary geotechnical and hydrological investigations. The Service Level Agreements between the Department and the HDA have been signed and the inception meeting was to take place on 22 August 2023. Once the preliminary assessments have been completed, the Department will be able to determine the number of housing units that can be constructed as part of phase two.

Consensus was reached that permanent structures, and not TRUs will be provided to flood affected persons, at the cost of approximately R183 000 per unit, as per the Breaking New Ground Policy guidelines. Community members however expressed that they were not made to understand the breakdown of the monies allocated towards the housing project to determine the number of units that will be built. The community has also seen reports that R7 million has been spent in the community but there is no tangible service to show for it. They have tried to meet with the legislature on these issues but have not received any response.

The Department emphasised that the commissioning of the HDA as well co-ordinating with the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism to conduct the environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for the housing projects was a way the Department fast – tracked the provision of housing to flood affected persons. The EIAs included assessments on local business (tuck shops and liquor outlets) and environmental specialists continue to conduct assessment on local businesses.

- **Public Works and Roads**

The Department allocated R1.1 million towards road works and has applied for funding to the value of R64 million to the National Department of Public Works. The Department is awaiting the outcomes in respect of the application. The Department indicated that, since March 2022, it has been repairing internal gravel roads to ensure use by the community however, due to heavy rainfall, the road is constantly damaged. The Department on the 14 July 2023 appointed consulting engineers to undertake road works. This will include construction of approximately 12km of the road from Mooifontein to Lombaardslaagte, access road to the nearby public amenity (Reaithuta Primary School) and six (06) internal roads in Deelpan.

The projects will create approximately 100-200 job opportunities and provide technical and generic training to those working in the projects. The intention is to have a labour-intensive approach, such as the use of block paving, to increase employment opportunities. The block paving is scheduled to commence in 2024. During the recent community protests, the Department lost various equipment and machinery including a tractor loader backhoe (TLB), grader, tipper truck and vibrator rollers, which were burnt. A response could not be provided as to whether any arrests or criminal cases had been opened in respect of the malicious damage to property. The Department bought a 12 000-litre capacity water tanker and was providing water to the community of Deelpan daily until an indication was received from the municipality that they can take over the water tanker services.

- **Social Development**



The Department leads the workstream of sector departments which render services to community members across categories such as children, youth, women, older persons, and the community at large. Services to children include, amongst others, psychosocial support services, homework assistance, provision of snacks, nutritional support in schools, school uniform donations, sports activities, early childhood development services and referrals. Services to the youth include accredited skills training, food gardening, sports, and arts. Services to women include provision of street vending and sewing material support to two women. Services to older persons include service clubs, spiritual support, social and emotional support. Services to families include parenting services. It was however not clear which of these services were targeted specifically at flood victims and how many flood victims have benefited.

- ***Agriculture and Rural Development***

The Department indicated that it assisted farmers that were affected by the floods. The departmental veterinary unit provided vaccination to more than 600 cattle against waterborne diseases. The Department procured approximately 67 000 litres of diesel to the value of R 1.759 million which is said to have benefited seventeen (17) farmers. In addition, the Department procured ninety (90) goats at the cost of R 714 150. 00 and five (5) bulls at the cost of R 309 000.00, which has benefitted communal farmers. The Department has submitted a funding application for R35 million to the National Department of Agriculture , Land Reform and Rural Development and is awaiting the outcomes of the application.

- ***Ngaka Modiri Molema District and Tswaing Local Municipality***

Three boreholes in the areas are serviced by the Ngaka Modiri Molema District with two connected to Eskom and one being diesel operated. Load shedding disrupts water supply and procurement is underway for two generators to serve as backup during load shedding. For consistent supply of water, the diesel operated borehole will also be connected to the Eskom grid. To augment water provision, the JoJo tanks provided to the community are scheduled to be supplied with water at least once per week. Water was tested for possible contamination due to overflowing ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP) toilets. The District Municipality also completed construction of the pipeline for storage tanks in the area. The Tswaing local municipality replaced windowpanes at the tribal offices that were used for temporary relocation. It further purchased electricity for the church, Tribal Hall, and old age homes. The municipality also provided social support to all affected families and purchased sleeping mattresses for displaced families.

- ***Meeting with the Traditional Authority in Deelpan***

This meeting was convened to honour a commitment made during a previous visit to the effect that the Committee will return to follow up on the matters raised by the traditional authority in the Deelpan area, as led by Chief Molete. In attendance in this meeting was the Co-Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee from the National Assembly contingent, the traditional authority responsible for the Deelpan area, the MEC responsible for Provincial Treasury who also doubled as the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Tswaing mayor, and officials from the province, district, and local municipalities. The mayor of Tswaing submitted that much progress has been made since the Committee's last visits. Although the district municipality has responded to the unavailability of water in the area, the intervention has been inadequate, and the water challenge consequently persists. The provision of navigable access roads remained another critical outstanding matter. The MEC's report was a repeat of the inputs captured in the foregoing reports relating to the various sector departments.

Chief Molete confirmed that the construction of the promised houses was in progress. However, there was no progress on the rehabilitation of access roads, particularly the road connecting Deelpan to Mooipan. Consequently, the learners using this road become stranded on rainy days and cannot attend school. There are also areas that still do not have any water at all as the district municipality does not have the requisite equipment to fix the relevant boreholes. The Jojo tank intervention by the district is insufficient. The traditional council also had to pay for the renovation of its offices without the expected assistance from the provincial government.



**Table 4: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Northwest province**

<p><i>Deelpan Village, Tswaing Local Municipality</i></p>	<p>More than a year since the devastating floods that left the Deelpan area residents homeless, many flood-affected residents are still living with their families, which places strain on family relationships. The Committee acknowledged that there are plans to relocate the affected families to a new housing project. The housing relocation land donated by the local traditional authority was visited and the authority's important contribution to the community was acknowledged.</p>
<p><i>Phase 1 construction of 103 houses to relocate flood-affected households, Tswaing Local Municipality</i></p>	<p>This site constitutes five hectares of land that has been allocated for the construction of 103 houses to relocate flood affected households. In recognition of the rural nature of the setting, a compromise was reached to deviate from the norm of providing 250 square metre housing plots and increase this to 350 square metres. A contractor was on site laying the foundation slabs and 50 of these will be completed by 15 December 2023.</p> <p>Project beneficiaries had been informed that they will receive houses with flushing toilets inside. However, this will not be the case given the absence of bulk sewage and water infrastructure in the area. The area is largely rural and does not have existing bulk sewage and water infrastructure. The Co-Chairperson implored the local councilor to inform the beneficiaries regarding these developments so that they do not get surprised upon completion of the project.</p> <p>The Department of Human Settlement officials indicated that the houses were built taking into consideration the future installation of bulk sewage and water infrastructure. Each unit will have space for toilet and bathtub, so that these could be installed in the future. The officials indicated that the costs of constructing each unit amount to R181 000, and each unit is 45 square meter in size with a plot size of 350 square meters.</p> <p>In terms of local beneficiation, the service provider (Kgabotloge Construction) has partnered with local sub-contractors so that they can also benefit from the project. The local community residents have been employed to be part of the project. The entire project is envisaged to be completed by 31 March 2023. The Co-Chairperson looked forward to the handing over of the completed structures to the beneficiaries.</p>

### 3.4. Free State (25 August 2023)

- **Free State Provincial Government**

The provincial delegation was unable to provide the Committee with an estimate of all damage caused by the February 2023 floods, nor a cost estimate for all the required repairs. The only estimate that could be provided related to road infrastructure damage that would cost approximately R400 million to rehabilitate. These funds must be reprioritised from the existing budget. Due to financial constraints and lack of internal capacity, only temporary repairs could be done on all affected gravel and surfaced roads. All affected roads are drivable. At the end of 2022, damage occurred on the R59 road just outside Viljoenskroon. The water source is unknown, and the road remains closed, with traffic travelling through Viljoenskroon town.

The outcome of a feasibility study to raise the road out of the water will inform the type of intervention that should be implemented. Interventions on major routes outside of the Fezile Dabi District are underway. These include repair of two sections of the R30 at Allanridge, the repair of the slip area of the R711 between Clarens and Fouriesburg areas, and the repair of the slip area of the R74 between Harrismith and Oliviershoek areas. The need for activation of intergovernmental relations to assist municipalities affected by disasters was highlighted, including the expectation that when a local municipality is affected by a disaster, the District Municipality would assist. However, because this assistance is not enforceable it is sometimes not provided, especially as it pertains to financial and technical matters. Uncertainty was expressed as to whether funding can still be secured for



Temporary Relocation Units as such an application must be made within 90 days of the disaster occurring.

The MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs subsequently submitted a progress report responding to the issues emanating from the Committee's oversight visit to the province as they relate to the Ngwathe municipal area. The municipality is reportedly labouring under severe personnel capacity constraints as the positions of the Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Engineering are vacant. This negatively affects municipal capacity to spend allocated grants, including a R45m average annual allocation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant that could assist with regular maintenance of the open canals, which currently pose enormous risk to communities during heavy rains.

In response to this challenge, the Department has developed an action plan focusing on continuous maintenance of the canals using municipal and Community Work Programme staff. The Department is also finalising the appointment of consulting engineers to conduct a full assessment of the municipality's storm water drainage and develop wetlands management plans. Progress on the rehabilitation of flood affected provincial roads was also provided, including the completion of the R30 at Allanridge to the value of R33m. Still at procurement stage was the rehabilitation of the R71 between Clarens and Fouriesburg and the R74 between Harrismith and Overshoek.

- ***Fezile Dabi District Municipality***

The District Disaster Management Centre (DDMC) delivered a presentation on their assessment of the floods in the Local Municipality. It was reported that the floods in the area are exacerbated by several factors. The water channels are not cleaned or not properly built, and road construction methods cause soil erosions. In respect of affected houses, most of those were built in wetlands. Throughout the presentation, emphasis was placed on the health risks to persons affected by floods, including exposure to water borne diseases and mould and how the risk is increased because of the continued use of ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines. A mitigation strategy has been developed for the Ngwathe Local Municipality with short, medium, and long term interventions identified. The district appealed for assistance from National Treasury and the National Disaster Management Centre on how to correctly complete post disaster damage assessments and financial application forms. A previous attempt to follow the required process yielded no positive result.

- ***Ngwathe Local Municipality***

The delegation was led by the municipality's Executive Mayor, Ms. V De Beer. Following Parliament's public hearings on the Climate Change Bill, the municipality started a discussion on the impact of climate change. It has been 100 years since floods occurred in the municipal area and the recent floods were a wakeup call for better flood disaster planning. One of the contributing factors to the flood damage was the lack of storm water drain clearing and maintenance. Immediately after the February 2023 floods, the municipality experienced challenges at the Parys Water Purification Plant which was under strain causing serious problems on the purification process. The Vredefort water purification plant was also not drawing enough water from the Vaal River affecting the process negatively.

The municipal teams could, at the time, not access the abstraction point because of dangerous conditions and was distributing water via tankers to minimise the impact. The floods affected individuals, families, and businesses in Parys. The area is a tourism attraction for the Free State Province and many businesses had to close in the aftermath of floods. An undertaking was made to the effect that, going forward, the municipality will take disaster management planning very seriously. Thus, it will embark on an intensive community awareness campaign in relation to climate change. Mention was also made of the Blue Deal partnership between the Free State government and the government of the Netherlands, with assistance from the South African Local Government Association, which is aimed at the cleaning of the Vaal River.

**Table 5: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Free State province**

<p><i>Bridge between Ward 6 and 9 in Tumahole, Parys</i></p>	<p>Various components of the drain systems were affected by the flooding. Soil erosion from undeveloped streets blocked water flow, resulting in flooding. The same occurred with the low-lying bridge connecting Heilbron and Phiritona. The</p>
--	---





	culverts were blocked with refuse and the adjacent water canals were filled with stagnant water (potential for water borne diseases) and animal (dog) carcasses were also observed in the water canal. Further down in the dryer part of the water canal, grass had been allowed to grow, which also limits the canal's water carrying capacity.
<i>Houses affected by flooding in Ward 6 in Tumahole, Parys</i>	An assessment by the district and local municipality engineers indicated that the area is located on a wetland where the water table is high and in the location of a discharge area. The Committee observed that an attempt to provide drainage or canals to reduce the risk of flooding would also affect houses built in the nearby proximity, possibly requiring relocation.

### 3.5. Mpumalanga (02 – 03 November 2023)

#### ▪ **Mpumalanga Provincial Government**

Reports were received from the MECs responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Social Development. Key interventions in the aftermath of the February 2023 floods included the provision of food parcels, psychosocial support, burial assistance, school uniforms and clothing. Grant funding amounting to R104m was allocated to the affected local municipalities of Msukwalgwa, Lekwa, Nkomazi, Mkhondo, Dipaleseng, Dr JS Moroka, Bushbuckridge, and the City of Mbombela. These municipalities are implementing a total of 116 projects. As at September 2023, grant expenditure amounted to R18m or 17.6 percent. Most of these municipalities had not yet incurred any expenditure.

The measures introduced to address the low expenditure rates include issuing letters of non-compliance, convening monthly Project Steering Committee meetings, and Grant Performance Review meetings. Municipalities have also been reminded that Treasury regulations do allow for deviations from the normal SCM process as to enable immediate response to a disaster. One of the critical factors delaying project implementation relates to communities who are protesting the appointment of contractors from outside their localities, and the construction mafia who demand 30% of project value.

Regarding agricultural damage, pack houses, seedlings, storage facilities and other infrastructure were destroyed. Destroyed farms resulted in farm workers and hawkers losing employment opportunities. Some farms were still experiencing power outages due to damaged power lines. Damaged agricultural infrastructure has seen declining production levels in the sugarcane industry. Post disaster interventions included construction of access and infield roads at affected farms; provision of fertilisers, seeds, and seedlings; garden tools; smart food garden boxes; portable soil; and livestock. Repairs to a piggery and a broiler house were also underway.

On the human settlements front, a funding application for the Provincial Emergency Housing Grant to the value of R39m has been submitted to the National Department of Human Settlements. However, no response had yet been received at the time of the Committee's oversight visit. There have been engagements with the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan leaders around municipal Spatial Development Frameworks as to ensure that people are not allocated land where development is not permitted to occur. There are still 153 households housed in a mass care center in the Nkomazi Local Municipality who have not been receiving much assistance other than occasional visits by the national Human Settlements Department. The quantum of damage to 545 dwellings has not yet been assessed.

#### ▪ **Lekwa Local Municipality**

The verified cost estimate of flood damage in the municipality is R16.5m. The Johan, Vaal River, Rooikopen, Steign Sewer and Morgenzon Raw Water Pumpstations were flooded. Storm water infrastructure was damaged in Lang Street, Ward 11 where the road at the culvert location totally collapsed. Assessments identified that the riverbed was polluted, which in turn restricted water flow. The disaster grant allocation to the municipality amounted to R6.6m and all the associated projects are nearing completion, except for the rehabilitation works at the Morgenzon Raw Water Pump Station and the replacement of six wooden poles on the R – lines.



The municipality has appointed a panel of service providers as to shorten SCM processes and enable it to spend all its disaster allocation by end 30 November 2023. An amount of R350m has been received from the Department of Water and Sanitation for the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment plants, and sewer reticulation networks. The municipality has a unit dedicated to preventing unlawful land occupation as to address the problem of people who erect settlements in high risk or unserviceable areas.

▪ **City of Mbombela**

Flooding overwhelmed the municipality's drainage system, washed away roads, culverts, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. The total budget required to repair flood related damages is R93.5m and the municipality has to date spent R33m on such repairs through its operational budget. Disaster grant funding amounting to R11.8m was received and spent on, among other things, the replacement and repair of the Aragoniet Stormwater and Stonehenge Culvert. Delays in the transfer of disaster relief grants exacerbated the disaster damage and hampered relief and recovery efforts in the municipal area. The Committee's assistance was requested regarding amendments to the current Disaster Management Act to extend a state of disaster's duration beyond the prescribed three-month period, as to enable longer access to disaster funding streams. The municipality will be working with the Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to develop storm water and flooding responses in the municipal area.

**Table 6: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Mpumalanga province**

<i>Vaal River Sewer Pump Station, Lekwa Local Municipality</i>	This facility was flooded during the heavy rains in February 2023, resulting in damage to its electro-mechanical components. The repair work involved the rehabilitation of two 22kw motors and two pumping units and the lifting of the pumping units and the piping works to minimise flooding. The contractor was appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation and total repair costs amounted to R1.25m. The committee observed and raised concerns about the lack of security and operators at the pump station. However, the municipality indicated that it is in the process of appointing a second operator to work shifts with the existing operator. In addition, it was observed that there are no preventative measures to mitigate against future flooding.
<i>Morgenzon Raw Water Pump Station</i>	The facility's electromechanical components were damaged, and the rehabilitation was funded through the Municipal Disaster Response Grant to the value of R1.2m. The rehabilitation work has been completed.
<i>Old Pretoria Road, City of Mbombela</i>	Heavy rains washed away the road embankment and exposed the drainage culverts. The repair work involved the rehabilitation of the road shoulder with the construction of gabions and backfilling to prevent further erosion. The work has been done but appears unstable. The municipality indicated that the lack of funding affected the quality of the rehabilitation work.
<i>Tekwane South Road, City of Mbombela</i>	The road was damaged due to a collapsed earth dam upstream during heavy rainfall. The floods washed away the bridge. Provincial COGTA funded the project to the value of R27 million and the Department of Public Works provided engineering services. The project was initially planned to last for three months but got delayed by community protests. However, the project was successfully completed.
<i>Kanyamazane Raw Water Pump Station, City of Mbombela LM</i>	The facility was severely flooded. The rehabilitation involved dredging sand and building a sand trap to minimise further clogging during floods. Nevertheless, the pump station is still vulnerable to flooding and siltation. There is a need to build a weir upstream to completely protect the pump station from siltation. R80 million has been spent thus far on the pump station's rehabilitation. The remaining work which includes the construction of a weir would require approximately R90 million. In this regard, the municipality is in the process of applying for funding from Provincial COGTA.

**3.6. Limpopo (14 -15 November 2023)**



- **Limpopo Provincial Government**

Leading the provincial delegation on the Premier's behalf, the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, prefaced the province's report by highlighting the following. Firstly, the province is prone to various types of disasters, including drought, veld fires, foot and mouth disease and floods. However, flooding impact in the province has been less severe compared to the devastation seen in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. As the province is mostly rural in nature, the values of *ubuntu* are still prevalent as neighbours are willing to accommodate one another in the aftermath of a flood disaster. This has contributed towards minimising the flood's humanitarian impact. The province has also opted for repairing existing damaged human settlements to accommodate those whose damaged structures are larger than the RDP structures to which the current housing replacement policy is confined. The Provincial Disaster Management Centre is not at the desired level of functionality due resource constraints.

The Department of Cooperative Government's Head of Department presented the rest of the province's report, indicating that from October 2022 to January 2023 heavy downpours flooded parts of Limpopo, uprooting trees, and blocking roads. The quantum of damage was estimated at R340.5m, which was inclusive of the total estimated cost of post disaster maintenance and repairs, human settlements, roads and infrastructure, municipal internal streets, and culverts. Of this amount, only R40.4m has been disbursed. While all the province's five districts were affected, the funding received was mainly distributed across ten municipalities in the Vhembe (Musina, Makhado, and Collins Chabe), Mopani (Greater Giyani, Greater Letaba, and Greater Tzaneen) and Capricorn Districts (Molemole, Blouberg, Lepelle-Nkumpi, and Polokwane). The grant must be spent within six months, between June 2023 and November 2023.

- **Social Development**

The provincial Social Development Department's interventions focused primarily in the Capricorn District and the Blouberg Local Municipality in particular. The interventions were executed in line with the department's mandate of providing comprehensive support to poor and vulnerable people. The 2022 and 2023 flooding incidents in the province left numerous households destitute. Psychosocial support and food parcels to these households were provided. Resource constraints prevented the department from assisting all the affected households. The department has worked collaboratively with traditional leaders, who are often at the forefront of disaster response initiatives in their communities. The department will be embarking on community and household profiling to enhance readiness and preparedness for future disasters.

- **Mopani District Municipality**

The district mayor was not available to present the municipality's report and the designated political representative demonstrated little understanding of the content she was reading. The acting mayor summarised the projects being implemented by the Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba municipalities following grant allocations disbursed in connection with the February 2023 flooding incidents. The Committee was assured that the projects were at 97 percent completion and would be completed within the stipulated deadline of 30 November 2023.

- **Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality**

The Municipal Manager reported on the two projects the municipality was implementing following disbursement of R3.95m of Municipal Disaster Response Grant in response to the February 2023 floods. One project, to the value of R1.75m, related to the rehabilitation of an access road in Lorretto Farm, which involved mass earthworks, storm water drainage and erosion protection works. The other project pertained to the rehabilitation of an access road to Khujwana primary school to the value of R2.2m. The damage to the road blocked access to the school. The R1.75m project was completed in October 2023 and the R2.2m project is 98 percent complete. The municipality applied for an additional R20m to rehabilitate damaged roads in Thako, Mopye, Tickyline, Mokgolobotho, and Pulaneng villages. The first tranche of this funding has been received and amounts to R10.5m. The Thako and Mokgolobotho villages will be prioritised.



**Table 7: Committee site visits to flood-affected areas in the Limpopo province**

<i>Buite Clinic, City of Polokwane</i>	This is a R4.5m project involving the lining of an earth channel to prevent water ingress into the clinic. The area has been vulnerable to flooding. At the time of visiting the site, project expenditure amounted to R1.6m or 36.4 percent. The municipality is implementing the project in-house, with consulting being the only outsourced element.
<i>Sefihlampyana, Ward 09, Blouberg Local Municipality</i>	This is a R4m project involving re-gravelling 4 km of access road and storm water control through culvert and F-drain construction. The road had been completely eroded and had become a stream, posing a drowning risk to learners. Project implementation commenced in September 2023 and expenditure amounted to R2.5m or 64 percent at the time of visiting the site.
<i>Morebeng, Molemole Local Municipality</i>	This is a R4.5m project involving the rehabilitation of a flood damaged road as to improve access to the adjacent area. The value of the awarded contract, however, amounted to R4.2m. The project commenced in September 2023 and expenditure amounted to R2.8m or 64 percent at the time of the Committee's visit to the site. Committee members were skeptical as to whether value for money had been realized in this project and recommended that the Auditor-General should include it in its 2023 Municipal Finance Management Act General Audit.
<i>Lorretto Farm and Khujwana Primary School, Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality</i>	The two projects had a combined value of R3.95m, broken into R1.75m and R2.22m respectively. The R1.75m project related to the rehabilitation of an access road to Lorretto Farm primary school, as indicated previously. The other project pertained to the rehabilitation of an access road to Khujwana primary school to the value of R2.2m. The R1.75m project was completed in October 2023 and the R2.2m project was 98 percent complete at the time of the Committee's visit to the site.

#### 4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having received briefings from the affected state organs and having visited the flood-affected sites, the Ad Hoc Joint Committee observed and recommends as follows:

##### 4.1 Observations

##### *Humanitarian relief*

- The poor cooperation received from the City of Tshwane's political and administrative leadership demonstrates the municipality's lack of interest in prioritising the plight of communities affected by the recurring floods around the municipal area. Such business-as-usual attitude is devoid of basic humanity and empathy and is out of place in the context of a provincial state of disaster declaration. The report presented to the Committee was also deficient in terms of providing details around affected public infrastructure such as schools, clinics, and similar public facilities.
- The living conditions at the Nelmaphius Community Hall are unhygienic and inhumane and represent a disjuncture between the information presented to the Committee and the situation on the ground. This shows that the consequences of political instability in the Tshwane council are spilling over to the city's most vulnerable groups.
- The well-organised reception by the City of Johannesburg's full political and administrative contingent inspires confidence and is indicative of the municipality's readiness to cooperate with the relevant role players towards more effective post flood disaster rehabilitation. Notwithstanding its outstanding delivery, the city's report did not include all the areas affected by December 2022 and February 2023 floods.



- The conditions witnessed at the Kliptown site opposite the Walter Sisulu Freedom Square are inhumane and disappointing to the Committee.
- The North-West provincial government has made minimal post-disaster intervention progress since the previous Ad Hoc Joint Committee's visit. More than a year later, critical disaster relief measures are still at a planning phase. Poor communication with the affected citizens has contributed to violent protests and destruction of municipal property. The destruction of service delivery infrastructure is counterproductive, and the Committee condemns such acts of criminality.
- The Gauteng provincial government's proactive and forward-looking approach to dealing with disasters, including the introduction of permanent search and rescue teams, is welcome and supported. This is an example of good practice that should be emulated. The intergovernmental coordination initiative, as outlined by the Premier, is also encouraging. However, the post-disaster rehabilitation projects presented to the Committee lack clear timelines.
- The failure by the Free State premier, and the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the province, to honour the Committee's invitation is disappointing, and the tendered apologies are not acceptable. The provincial government was not well prepared to brief the Committee as critical flood damage assessment information was not available.
- The Mopani District and the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality mayors' non-attendance rendered the Committee's oversight visit to the area futile as it could not engage meaningfully with their acting representatives who demonstrated little understanding of the content they were delegated to present.

#### ***Roads and bridges***

- The update report by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government regarding rehabilitation work on damage resulting from the April/May 2022 floods did not include all the details relating to the sites, which the Committee had previously visited. A case in point was the omission of a progress report on the work that has been done on Crescent and Valley Road bridges in the Ray Nkonyeni municipal area. Government owes the community explanation as to the outcome of the funding business case presented by the municipality, otherwise the Committee's previous visit would have been tantamount to a waste of time.
- There is no bridge crossing at the site of Umngeni Aqueduct 1, which makes access to the adjacent areas very difficult. No municipal official was present to address the Committee's concern in this regard.
- The report by the North-West Public Works and Roads Department did not provide adequate information regarding progress in the rehabilitation of damaged road infrastructure.
- In some instances, repairs to infrastructural damage emanating from previous flooding incidents remain outstanding.
- Several roads in Kabokweni, Mpumalanga, are described as being heavily eroded and inaccessible yet no budget has been allocated towards their repair.

#### ***Resource mobilization***

- The Auditor General's 2021-22 MFMA Report has raised critical matters and equipped the Committee with information that will help to inform and enhance its oversight to the specific flood-affected areas. The PFMA Report was also succinct and provided a clear way forward. Effort will be made to ensure that the findings and lessons learnt from these audits inform the Climate Change Bill regulations and that they are part of the Committee's legacy report.
- The slow spending of disaster grants is a cause for concern considering that the Committee has fought hard for funding to be availed to flood impacted state organs. The key issue is no longer the lack of resources but the inability to spend the allocated funds due to absence of necessary skills.



- State organs appeared to subject emergency disaster projects to normal procurement processes notwithstanding the fact that Treasury Note 3 of 01 April 2022 provides a special dispensation that allows for deviation, which should be reported within 14 days. Note 3 has not received the necessary traction despite being in place for more than a year.
- The non-submission and late submission of applications for post disaster funding by the Sedibeng District and its local municipalities is indicative of inadequate capacity and ignorance of procedures and processes that must be followed to access the funding. The assessment of infrastructural damages was also not sufficiently comprehensive and inclusive of all damaged amenities.
- While the provision of diesel to assist flood affected farmers is welcome and appreciated, the procurement process followed by the Northwest provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is suspicious as it appears that the fuel purchase price was grossly inflated.
- It is doubtful whether the Lekwa Local Municipality would have spent the remaining balance of its disaster grant allocation by the stipulated deadline of 30 November 2023.
- The under resourcing of the Limpopo Provincial Disaster Management is a cause for concern, particularly given the indication that the province is prone to various types of disasters.
- The funding constraints reported by the Limpopo provincial department are noted but need to be balanced against the currently prevalent underspending of the allocated funds.
- The Greater Tzaneen Local municipality provided no detailed breakdown of the R20m funding application for the rehabilitation of damaged roads in the Thako, Mopye, Tickylane, Mokgolobotho, and Pulaneng villages. The municipality also appeared to have made no investment on infrastructure maintenance prior to the flood damage.

#### ***Water and sanitation infrastructure***

- Corruption involving water supply through water tankers is a serious and well-known problem in eThekweni, to the extent that water infrastructure is deliberately sabotaged for private gain. The post-disaster scene has provided a conducive environment for the proliferation of water tankers along with the associated opportunities for private gain. The Committee appreciates the frank inputs by the Council Speaker in this regard as this enables it to have a real and meaningful engagement.
- The lack of security and operators at the Vaal River Sewer Pump Station under the Lekwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga is a cause for concern. The municipality has also not implemented any preventative measures to mitigate against future flooding in this facility.
- The failure by the Ngaka Modiri Molema District municipality to provide regular access to reliable drinking water to the Deelpan community is deeply disappointing.

#### ***Human Settlements***

- While the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government has done well to provide neater accommodation, there has been no concrete social development interventions accompanying the relocation of floods victims from shelters to the Temporary Emergency Accommodation. Simply moving people from one place to another, without addressing the concomitant social development, healthcare, and education needs, amounts to a mere tick-box exercise where the setting has changed but the circumstances remain the same.
- The decision by the Human Settlements MINMEC to shift the focus away from Temporary Residential Units to the provision of permanent structures is welcome and is in line with the Committee's previous pronouncements. Where temporary structures last for a long time, they lose meaning.



- The high number of outstanding temporary structures, as seen in the OR Tambo and Amathole Districts in particular, is a cause for concern.
- The Committee applauds Chief Molete of the Deelpan village in the Northwest for availing land for the construction of a housing project to relocate people from a flood-prone area. This is indicative of a commitment to serve the community.
- Progress in the construction of human settlements structures to relocate flood affected families in the Deelpan area only seemed to start when the Committee insisted on a follow-up visit to assess what has been done. This progress also came at the expense of neglecting other critical service delivery matters such as the construction of access roads and the provision of drinkable water.
- The North-West provincial government has not yet furnished the Committee with the geotechnical report previously requested relating to an alternative flood mitigation solution that would not involve the relocation of communities.

## 4.2 Recommendations

---

### *Gauteng*

- Flood disaster interventions by organs of state should include climate change as a key consideration to foster better understanding of the broader context in which the flood crisis unfolds.
- The **Ad Hoc Joint Committee** should take note of environmental degradation arising from mining activities around the province to ensure that the responsible companies are held accountable.
- The **City of Johannesburg** should attend to the issues raised by the Auditor-General in relation to the city's poor state of finances and foster a closer working relationship with the Council for Geoscience for a more informed response to the geological aspect of the city's disaster vulnerabilities. The city should also furnish the Committee with its plan to address the Braam Fischer drainage problem as it affects the Meadowlands area.
- The responsible government spheres should find a way of accelerating the process of releasing post disaster rehabilitation funds.
- **The provincial government** should assist the Sedibeng district and its local municipalities to relocate to safer areas those households that returned to their original flood-prone homes.
- The **Ad Hoc Joint Committee** should deliberate on the way forward regarding the poor cooperation received from the City of Tshwane's political leadership while discharging its oversight responsibilities, which is tantamount to disrespecting Parliament's resolution on the Committee's establishment.

### *KwaZulu-Natal*

- The **provincial government** and the **city of eThekweni** should immediately furnish the Committee with all outstanding details relating to the progress achieved in connection with the sites previously visited by the Ad Hoc Joint Committee. Additional information relating to the impact and response to the landspout that hit Inanda and surrounding areas on the day of the Committee's arrival in the province should also be provided.
- The **city of eThekweni and the Human Settlements Department** should immediately furnish the Committee with a detailed schedule regarding the movement of people from Temporary Emergency Accommodation to permanent homes. A clear break-down of the ASTRA Building's rental costs should be furnished immediately. The outcomes of the social development verification being conducted in all the TEA units should also be furnished to the Committee as soon as it is concluded.



- The **city of eThekwini** should immediately update the Committee on its plan to rehabilitate the bridge that was swept away at site 4C, Umngeni Water Aqueduct 1. The city should also provide a report detailing the work underway to address its weak canal drainage system in totality, as opposed to just focusing only on certain areas. The city should further address a previously raised concern regarding irresponsible rubble dumping, which contributes to canal blockage.
- The **city of eThekwini and Eskom** should find a way to address the inequitable access to electricity between the Frazer informal settlement and the Conway Temporary Emergency Accommodation.
- The **Ad Hoc Joint Committee** should scrutinise more carefully the extent to which the rental lease for the Astral Building in the City of eThekwini has been concluded in accordance with a system that is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive, and cost-effective.
- Municipal and provincial capacity to spend disaster funds is a cause for concern. In this regard, **national government** should intervene and convert these funds into indirect grants and spend on the municipalities and provinces' behalf.

#### ***Eastern Cape***

- The **OR Tambo district** should immediately furnish the Committee with the promised comprehensive and consolidated report detailing the impact of the March 2023 floods in all the affected sectors.
- The **Port St Johns Local Municipality** should immediately furnish the Committee with a report profiling the people living in the Green Farm and Nonyevu informal settlements, as to know exactly who lives in these areas.

#### ***North-West***

- The **provincial government** should immediately furnish the Committee with the geotechnical report previously requested relating to an alternative flood mitigation solution that would not involve the relocation of communities.
- The responsible state organs should place more emphasis on municipal infrastructure maintenance, including clearing of storm water drainage systems and culverts prior to the onset of rainy seasons.
- The **provincial Public Works and Roads Department** should immediately furnish the Committee with a comprehensive report on progress made in the rehabilitation flood-damaged road infrastructure.
- The **provincial Department of Education** should develop a disaster contingency plan including mobile classrooms and toilets. Transport for learners commuting from Lombardslaagte, Mooifontein, Ensulrest, Goedgefonden, Uitky and Geluspan should also be provided.
- The **provincial government** should involve the Deelpan community in the planning and the implementation of its projects in the area to ensure that all stakeholders are on board regarding progress on flood disaster recovery projects. The community should also be kept up to date regarding the provision of bulk infrastructure to service the 103 houses being constructed as the first phase of relocating flood-affected families.
- The **Ad Hoc Joint Committee** should consider requesting the Office of the Auditor General to conduct an audit of funds obtained and spent on flood disaster relief and recovery in the province.
- The **Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality** should prioritize ensuring the provision of regular and reliable supply of drinking water to the Deelpan community. Quarterly progress reports in this regard should be furnished to Parliament. The municipality should also undertake an audit of water tankering services to determine whether the service providers are meeting their obligations and are ensuring that water is being delivered when and where needed. The results of the water safety tests that have reportedly been conducted should be





availed to the Ad Hoc Joint Committee, the local community, and the local traditional authority.

**Free State**

- The **provincial government and the affected municipalities** should undertake proper post-flood damage assessments and appreciate that this is a critical component to sourcing funding from National Treasury. The **Provincial Treasury and the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance** should assist the affected municipalities to complete post disaster assessments and funding applications and confirm with the Committee whether the latter has been done with respect to the February 2023 flooding incidents.
- In relocating people from the wetlands, **the Ngwathe Local Municipality** should investigate the cost implications of such an exercise, conduct proper profiling of the affected households and engage the latter regularly, as well as ensure that geotechnical and environmental studies for future infrastructure planning are undertaken. The municipality should also finalise its Disaster Management Plan as a matter of urgency and explore geotechnical and geohydrological solutions to fortify the Koppies Water Treatment Plant against future flooding.
- Taking cognisance of the recurrence of flooding incidents, the relevant state organs should embark on a continuous community awareness and education programme to ensure that communities are ready and know what to do in response to an impending flood disaster.
- **The Department of Water and Sanitation** should incorporate the Rand Water Barrage Dam into the Vaal River System as to enable it to undertake effective regulation and monitoring, thus mitigating against future flooding due to rising dam levels and the opening of flood gates.

**Mpumalanga**

- The **provincial government** should immediately furnish the Committee with a progress report on the construction of Hazy View, Manyeleli and Xanthia Roads, which appears to be registering little progress.
- The **provincial government, in conjunction with the relevant organs of state** should develop an intervention plan to assist the 153 households accommodated at the mass care centre in Nkomazi Local Municipality.

**Limpopo**

- In its 2023 General Municipal Finance Management Act audit, the **Auditor-General** should include the R4.5m project involving the rehabilitation of a flood damaged road in Morebeng, under the Molemole Local Municipality. **Members of the Provincial Legislature** should also follow-up on this project to ensure that value for money has been realized.
- The **Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality** should immediately furnish the Committee with a detailed and costed project plan relating to the R20m earmarked for the rehabilitation of damaged roads in the Thako, Mopye, Ticklyline, Mokgolobotho, and Pulaneng villages.

**Auditor-General**

- The **Ad Hoc Joint Committee** should ensure that the lessons and findings emanating from the real-time experience of auditing disaster relief funds are incorporated into the regulations that will be part of the Climate Change Bill currently under processing by Parliament. These lessons and findings should also form part of the Committee’s legacy report.

**5. ANNEXURE: MATTERS FOR FOLLOW-UP BY RELEVANT COMMITTEES**

ISSUE	COMMITTEE/S
-------	-------------



Sewer spillage at the Emfuleni Local Municipality in the Sedibeng district and progress in the implementation of the Section 63 intervention by the Department of Water and Sanitation.	Portfolio and Select Committees on Water and Sanitation
Provision of regular and sustainable access to drinkable water by the Ngaka Modiri Molema District municipality to communities in the Deelpan area	Portfolio and Select Committees on Water and Sanitation; Portfolio and Select Committees on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Finalisation of Umngeni Aqueduct No.2 rehabilitation following the April/May 2022 floods in KwaZulu-Natal	Portfolio and Select Committees on Water and Sanitation
Poor spending of post-disaster grant allocations.	Portfolio and Select Committees on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Provision of land parcels for the permanent relocation of the people currently occupying Temporary Emergency Accommodation in the City of eThekweni; a follow up on the outcome of the R39m Provincial Housing Emergency Grant application by the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements; and a follow up on the outstanding assessment of 545 flood damaged dwellings by the Mpumalanga Department of Human Settlements.	Portfolio and Select Committees on Human Settlements.
Humanitarian assistance to the 142 people still living in the Nelmaphius Community Hall in Tshwane, and the 153 households accommodated at a mass care centre in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, Mpumalanga.	Portfolio and Select Committees on Social Development

**Report to be considered.**