**National Assembly**

**Question No: 1038**

**Mr D F Mthenjane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

Whether his department has quantified the damage caused to the road infrastructure by the recent heavy rains; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the extent of the damage and (b) on what date will his department begin with the repair work? NW1285E

**REPLY**

The Department of Transport and various other Departments are working closely with the Department of Cooperative Governance (DoCG) and the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), the designated government body responsible for handling of natural disasters taking place in South Africa.

The NDMC received incident reports from various provinces and shared same with affected sector departments for support coordination and intervention measures.

Relevant structures were activated in all affected provinces through the coordination of Provincial Disaster Management Centres (PDMCs) for activation of provincial response plans as well as coordination of reports by organs of state and relevant stakeholders. This was done in line with the 2021/22 National Summer Seasonal Contingency Plan.

All PDMCs and some Sector Departments also submitted their Summer Seasonal Plans. The NDMC activated and coordinates the National Joint Flood Operational Committee (NJFCC) that constitutes all relevant organs of state for preparedness measures, contingency arrangements and intervention measures

1. Based on the initial assessments conducted by provincial road authorities, the extent of the damages is estimated at R11 919 909 965 in the various provinces.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **District Municipalities** | **No of Local Municipalities**  | **Assessments Estimated Cost** |
| **Reprioritisation**  | **Shortfall** |
| Eastern Cape | Sarah Baartman, Joe Gqabi, Amathole and OR Tambo | 27 | Not Quantified |  R1 469 393 770 |
| Free State  | Lejweleputswa, Xhariep, Fezile Dabi, Mangaung and Thabo Mofutsanyana |  | Not Quantified | R504 400 000 |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | eThekwini Metro, Ugu, iLembe, Umgungundlovu, Amajuba, Harry Gwala Uthukela and uMzinyathi,  | 32 | Not Quantified |   R2 794 650 801 |
| Limpopo | Capricorn, Sekhukhune, Waterberg, Vhembe and Mopani | 22 | R29 370 000 |  R2 021 780 000 |
| Mpumalanga | Bohlabela, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and District Nkangala District | 16 | R4 000 000 |  R157 600 000 |
| North west | Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Bojanala, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati  | 10 | R99 300 000 |   R4 632 900 560 |
| Northern Cape | Francees Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe, Namaqua, ZF Mgawu and Pixley ka Seme |  | 0 |  R309 814 834 |
| **Grand Total** |  |  | **R132 670 000** | **R11 919 909 965** |

Table 1: Estimated Cost of Flood Damages

1. The restoration works of infrastructure will be planned, scheduled and undertaken based on the inspections and assessments. Officials from the Department shall assist the teams to conduct the detailed site inspections and assessments (already in progress) as per details provide below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Province** | **District / Region** | **Roads / Sites** | **Date** |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | Ladysmith, Durban, Pietermaritzburg  | D2502, D91, P40, P549, P205/2, P213, D96 | 10-11 March 2022 |
| Eastern Cape | Amathole, Alfred Nzo, Sarah Baartman, Joe Gqabi, OR Tambo, Chris Hani | DR08047, DR08403, DR08044, DR08331, DR08346, DR2764 | 16-17 March 2022 |
| Free State  | Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyana, Mangaung, Fezile Dabi, Xhariep | S556, S570, S118, S571, P8/1 | 24-24 March 2022 |
| Mpumalanga | Nkangala, Bohlabela, Gert Sibande, Ehlanzeni | D1175, D957, D2685, D1604, D2950, D1604, P77/2 | 29-31 March 2022 |
| North West | Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, Ngaka Modri Molema, Bojanala, Dr Kennet Kaunda | D141, P34/2, P48/1, D171, D970 | 5-6 April 2022 |
| Limpopo | Capricon, Sekhukhune Waterberg, Vhembe, Mopani | D3830, D3749, D3653 | 9-11 April 2022 |

Table 2: Details of Inspections and Assessments

In the case of the National Route R61 at Tsomo junction between Ngcobo and Cofimvaba in the Chris Hani District Municipality, the repairs were completed by SANRAL and this road officially opened to motorists on the 28 February 2022.

In case of provincial and municipal roads, the implementation of emergency repairs works was activated by the various road authorities to the affected road infrastructure that falls within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

It must be noted that:

* In terms of the Disaster Management Act No 57 of 2002, when a disaster occurs:
	+ the cost of repairing or replacing public sector infrastructure should be borne by the organ of state responsible for the maintenance of such infrastructure.
	+ any financial assistance provided by a national, provincial or municipal organ of state must be in accordance with the national disaster management framework and any applicable post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation policy of the relevant sphere of government
* as storms continue to cause floods in some areas, the road authorities continues to assess and intervene by repairing damages to restore access, including temporary bypasses and alternative routing for continued access to basic amenities and socio-economic facilities.
* the reconstruction and rehabilitation to infrastructure damaged by floods, including road infrastructure will depend on the approval of budget reprioritisation and allocation of additional funds by the NDMC and National Treasury;
* National Government shall assist provinces through the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG) and municipalities through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG), as allowable with the provisions of these grant frameworks in terms of the Divisional of Revenue Act (DORA);
* discussions are taking place at the Inter-Governmental Committee on Disaster Management (ICDM) and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)’s Disaster Operations Centre (DOC) remains activated to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of focused intervention and response measures including the monitoring and reporting of summer-related incidents and declared disasters;
* The Department shall comply with any policy changes approved by ICDM.