

THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN'S INFLUENCES ON THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

All local authorities currently perform the disaster management function in terms of the Civil Protection Act, 1977 Civil Protection Ordinances, 1977 and directives issued during 1978 by the former Provincial Administrators.

Current legislation mainly focuses on reactive aspects during a disaster situation, regardless of its nature. However, a significant shift in emphasis is noticeable in new legislation, i.e. the Disaster Management Act, 2002. Provision is now being made for the prevention and mitigation of disasters, preparedness for disasters, rehabilitation and reconstruction. These six principles form the core of the bill and are simultaneously being applied at all levels of government and their various departments, as well as in the private sector.

Although the new Act has not yet been promulgated, the above-mentioned principles have to a large extent been applied by the relevant authorities since the initial phases of its development. It therefore follows logically that, for the purposes of the integrated development planning process, the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, should be followed in order to formulate sensible strategies in accordance with the core principles of the Act.

CURRENT ISSUES DEMANDING ATTENTION

The following issues have been identified and should, as a matter of priority, receive attention in the Integrated Development Plan:

- The establishment of a District Disaster Management Center
- The formulation of a disaster management policy framework for the District
- The integration of risk management program's with the IDP
- The ability to retain or expand the current staff complement will influence service delivery.

- The commitment of all departments, other authorities and external role-players to contribute to the objectives of disaster management will be vital to the success of disaster management planning in general.
- The establishment of disaster prevention strategy for vulnerable areas, such as informal settlements.
- The establishment and maintenance of multidisciplinary co-operations and partnerships.
- The maintenance of risk specific contingency planning.
- Awareness program's, and
- Training program's.

STRATEGIES

Strategies should incorporate the promotion of a safe district by disaster prevention, a caring district through disaster mitigation, a safe and prepared district through disaster preparedness, a caring district through prompt and effective disaster response and a local government close to the people by the promotion of promotion of effective post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and development.

Consequently the following strategies are envisaged for the Central Karoo District Municipality:

- A paradigm shift from a mere reactive role to a pro-active one by the District Municipality and all its internal and external role-players in order to limit the effects of disasters, with the specific emphasis on the prevention and alleviation of disasters.
- The promotion of a safer community through raising awareness, the involvement of all disaster management role-players in the area, capacity building through training program's and the establishment of uniform procedural guidelines to effectively manage those incidents that cannot be prevented.
- After reception of the National and Provincial disaster policy frameworks, the establishment and implementation of a disaster policy framework in co-operation with internal statutory functionaries, local municipalities and their statutory functionaries, municipal entities, non-government organizations and the private sector.
- The establishment and operation of a Municipal Disaster Management Center after consultation with local municipalities in the area.
- The appointment of a Head of the Municipal Disaster Management Center.

- The establishment of a municipal disaster management advisory forum, which will consist of internal departmental representatives, local municipalities and other disaster management role-players in the area.
- The reduction of the vulnerability of outlying rural communities and previously disadvantaged communities through the provision of basic equipment and training, and through raising awareness of the risks involved in their immediate environment.
- The development, establishment and implementation of effective disaster assessment guidelines for all disaster management role-players and training in this regard.
- The development and presentation of training for role-players on aspects such as disaster assessment, disaster co-ordination, the prevention and alleviation of disasters, etc.
- Conducting a comprehensive risk analysis for the entire district in co-operation with the local municipalities and other role-players to identify the most vulnerable areas and communities.
- The maintenance and expansion, where possible, of existing risk-specific contingency plans in co-operation with the role players involved.

FUTURE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN TERMS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002

The future legal requirements applicable to municipalities are stipulated in Chapter 5 of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 and can be summarized as follows:

Metropolitan and district municipalities will be legally obliged to:-

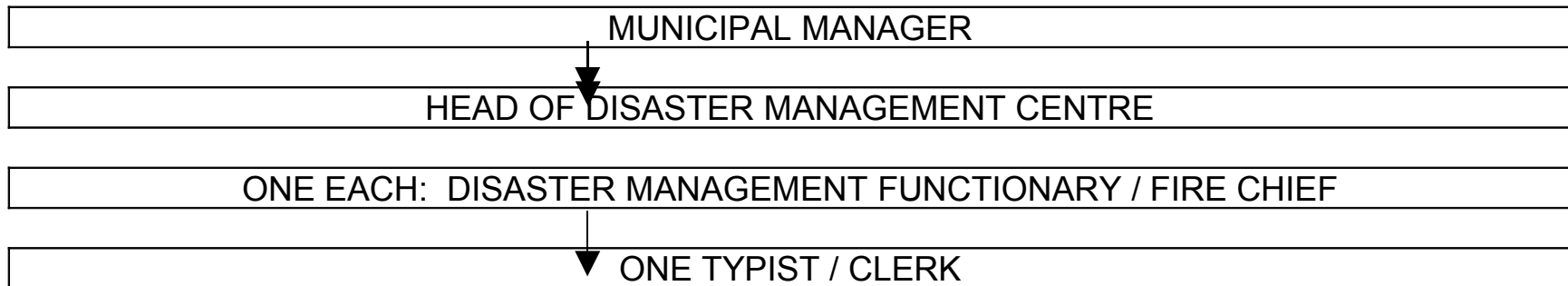
- Establish and implement a disaster management framework (policy) for its area aimed at ensuring a uniform and integrated approach to disaster management. Such a framework has to be compiled in consultation with local municipalities in the district municipality's area. This can only be done after completion of the National and Provincial frameworks.
- A disaster management center has to be established in consultation with local municipalities and may be operated in partnership with such municipalities. The municipal disaster management center must specialize in issues relating to disasters and promote a uniform and integrated approach to disaster management in the municipal area.
- Each municipal council has to appoint a Head of its Disaster Management Center who will be responsible for the performance of the center's duties and exercising of its powers in accordance with the municipal council's directions.
- A municipal disaster management center must give assistance to the relevant provincial and National Disaster Management Centers in matters relating to disaster management at those centers' request and must also establish and maintain an electronic database as envisaged in sec 17 of the Bill.
- A Disaster management center at municipal level must, within its capacity, give guidance to organs of state, private sector, non-governmental organizations and communities in matters relating to disaster prevention and mitigation.
- A municipal disaster management center must monitor progress with the preparation and updating of disaster management plans of municipal organs of state within its area.
- The municipal disaster management center must annually submit a report of its activities to the municipal council with reference to disaster that occurred, problems experienced, ways these problems were addressed and recommendations it wishes to make in this regard. The report must also include progress reports on disaster management planning. The annual report has to be submitted to the National Center, provincial center and local municipalities in the area.
- A district municipality may establish a disaster management advisory forum that will include all disaster management strategies and contingency planning. It must submit a copy of its plan to the national center and relevant provincial and municipal disaster management centers.
- Each municipality must prepare a disaster management plan in accordance with circumstances prevailing in its area and must coordinate the implementation of such a plan with those of other organs of state and institutional role-players. The disaster management plan should be updated regularly and form an integral part of its Integrated Development Plan (also stated in sec 26(g) of the Municipal Systems Act)

- A unit of disaster management volunteers may be established by the municipality and information regarding volunteers must be submitted to the National Center.
- The other sections of Chapter 5 mainly deal with the legal powers vested in the disaster management centre, declaration of local disasters and special powers in the event of disasters

CAPACITY TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002.

In order to give effect to the requirements of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and all the functions and duties that will probably be assigned to district municipalities, it is paramount that the current dedicated disaster management personnel component has to be extended. This is necessary in order to enhance the capacity of local municipalities as well, because varying degrees in capacity are evident and most probable disastrous events are likely to effect urban populations and infrastructure the most.

The following organ gram is therefore suggested:



FINANCIAL PLAN

A financial plan, which provides for the establishment of structures and disaster management objectives, is attached. The extension of personnel implicates a substantial financial expenditure and is not included in the plan at this stage.