

REPORT

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS SESSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (IDDR) HELD ON 15 – 16 NOVEMBER 2018 IN UPINGTON, DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF ZF MGCWU DISTRICT - NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE



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& RESEARCH**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report is aimed at providing feedback on the Commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) and the Disaster Risk Management Practitioners Session held on 15 – 16 November 2018 in Upington, Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality of ZF Mgcawu District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.

2. BACKGROUND

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), in collaboration with the Northern Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (NC PDMC) and ZF Mgcawu District Municipality planned and hosted the disaster risk management Practitioners Session (**TAG A – Programme for day 1**) and the International Day for Disaster Reduction (**TAG B – Programme for day 2**) on 15 and 16 November 2018.



3. PROCEEDINGS OF DAY 1 – DRM PRACTITIONERS SESSION (15/11/2018)

a. Opening and welcome

The session opened with singing of the South Africa's National Anthem and the observation of a moment of silence for people who lost their lives from various disasters in South Africa and across the Globe.



Picture 1: Mr Phillip Seane, Chief Director (Acting for NC PDMC) delivering “Opening and Welcome Address”.

Mr Seane (Northern Cape PDMC) welcomed all Municipal Managers, DDG's, CEO's, Institutions and more importantly, the DRM Practitioners present. Mr Seane appreciated the privilege to host the IDDR in the Northern Cape. He encouraged all stakeholders in their areas of work to be ready for eventualities, as disasters do not negotiate their occurrence and their associated impacts. Disasters are a reality, for example drought, veld and urban fires that are being experienced in many parts of South Africa. In his closing statements, Mr Seane encouraged all stakeholders to increase their levels of disaster risk preparedness.

b. Purpose of the DRM Practitioners Session

Dr Mmaphaka Tau acknowledged the Programme Director, Mr David Madurai and extended his greetings to Mr Phillip Seane (Chief Director, Acting for NC PDMC).

Dr Tau further acknowledged the contribution made by the NC PDMC and the ZF Mgcawu DM, in particular, Mr Lategan in ensuring the success of the Practitioners session and the commemoration of the IDDR 2018. He also acknowledged Entities, Private Sector, Farming Community, CBOs, and all the participants. He indicated that the deliberations and resolutions of the DRM Practitioners Session must positively contribute towards service delivery.



Picture 2: Dr Mmaphaka Tau, Deputy Director-General (Head): **NDMC** delivering “purpose of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Practitioners Session”.

He highlighted that the session was convened to rally behind the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction. He indicated that on 28 October 1982, the World Charter on Nature was developed and adopted by most countries of the world, which emphasized a collective endeavour to protect nature and advance sustainable use of natural resources, both biotic and abiotic. The Charter echoed a need for the development and implementation of integrated measures and plans aimed at disaster risk reduction. He emphasized that the session marked commemoration of Disaster Risk Reduction and was a platform for interaction between various DRM Practitioners and peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences.

Dr Tau applauded the steering committee and the planning task team for setting up the commemoration over two days: DRM Practitioners Session, followed by the IDDR commemoration, a political event on the second day. He highlighted progression of vulnerability as alluded in Wisner, *et al* (2004) model, and emphasized a need to designing development programmes, which will result in accumulated positive change and thus reduce the risk of disasters. He framed this in the law of gainful returns/ marginal returns and highlighted the importance of addressing root causes of disasters to cut chain in progression of vulnerability. The Law of gainful returns or law of diminishing returns is an area we must ponder on as we were set to engage on disaster risk reduction issues.

Dr Tau highlighted the strategic role of disaster risk management in the pursuance and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which are fundamental pillars of Disaster Risk Reduction and sustainable development and growth. He further emphasized that DRM Practitioners had a responsibility to model a thought leadership in building disaster resilient communities. He echoed some imperatives derived from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRRR) which amongst others encapsulate, managing the existing risks, preventing emergence of new risks; and ensuring that we build back better.

Dr Tau encouraged all Practitioners to think globally and act locally. Amongst pieces of legislations he quoted was section 24 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, which provides for people to live in environments that are not harmful to their wellbeing.

In his closing remarks, the DDG: NDMC also cited the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002, including National Disaster Management Framework of 2005, with particular focus to section 6.5.1 which directs the development and implementation of an integrated public awareness strategy. Commemoration of IDDR is celebrated as part of fulfilling amongst others, the cited section of the Framework. Context was also provided on the selection of the Northern Cape as the host of IDDR 2018. Lastly, Dr Tau pointed all attendees to the fact that the world is ever changing dictating that we also consider adaptation and mitigation as important disaster risk reduction measures.

c. The Effects of Drought on Vegetation: Earth Observation

Ms Nosiseko Mashiyi presented an overview of the Institution – Earth Observation, Space Operations, Space Science and Space Programme. She presented a brief on SANSA's programmes/ products which may support disaster risk management functionalities such as the National Mosaic that spans from 2006 to 2016 – outlining landscape changes over time.



Picture 3: Ms Nosiseko Mashiyi (SANSA), presenting “Earth Observations Studies”.

Ms Mashiyi emphasized the relevance of Earth Observations data as an enhancer in the following fields: human settlements mapping and monitoring; water resources mapping and monitoring; disaster management based on real-time data and the vegetation mapping and monitoring. She indicated that data on drought monitoring is one of the valuable data sets, which may assist disaster managers in managing and monitoring drought, including simulation of potential impacts to crops and rangelands. She encouraged the usage of GIS to better plan and manage agriculture, development and related matters, including determination of dams and riverine water levels for purposes of irrigation.

d. Climate Variability and Climate Change: Exploring Modelling Scenarios for the Country

Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi indicated that South Africa is affected by global climatic conditions. Climate and weather phenomena occurring in other parts of the world affect the climatic conditions of others parts of the world. South Africa is amongst countries projected to experience an increase of between 1 - 2 °C per annum of near-surface temperatures, suggesting global warming is upon us and real. He shared the observation that the country will receive below normal rainfall. He cited the earlier speaker's remarks that we need to manage existing risks, plan to reduce emerging and future risks.



Picture 4: Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi, Acting Chief Executive Officer (SAWS) presenting “Climate Variability and Climate Change: Exploring Modelling Scenarios for the Country”.

He emphasized that weather and climate is unavoidable, and impacts in the economy, lives and social dimension. He highlighted that Global weather systems is where balances could be disturbed. He pointed that NC host low pressure system but the rain occurs in eastern parts of the country. The recorded long terms average annual rainfall was 47 mm/ annum. Mr Ndabambi encouraged all participants to continue with the implementation of the Paris Agreement as part of contributing towards reducing the impact of climate change. He encouraged all to use available observational data to plan appropriately. The case “Day Zero” of the Western Cape cited in the context of proving that data signaled imminent drought over a period and that the SAWS issued forecasted below normal precipitation.

Mr Ndabambi alerted participants of the forecasted risk of prolonged and long term drought conditions and encouraged participants to advise their clients, especially the farming communities, to consider drought tolerant cultivars for the future agricultural production. He pointed the fact that as we forecast and plan for future risks, we also need to manage current disaster risks. Participants were encouraged to change approach in planning and setting up development issues. Amongst past incidences highlighted as could have been managed better. Reference was made of the collapse of a bridge in Lephalale (Limpopo) as a result poor and sub-standard workmanship. Mr Ndabambi cautioned participants of the reality of climate risks and the need to act on information issued through SAWS and prioritize safety of lives. We need to move towards “rotating climate sensitive route”.

e. Nexus between Invasive Plants and Drought: The Effect of Invasive Plants in Ecosystems of the NC,

Mr Ferreira echoed the negative effect of invasive plants as a factor that reduced the mean annual runoff. He reported that there are about 5400 plant species in the Northern Cape but this could be altered by increasing populations of dominant invasive plants.



Picture 5: Mr L Ferreira (DEA) presenting a “Nexus between Invasive Plants and Drought: The Effect of Invasive Plants in Ecosystems of the NC”.

The presentation focused more on two biomes: the Savanna and Nama Karoo Biomes. Mr Ferreira reported that 97% of the NC is exposed to risk of degradation due to high populations of invasive plants. He reported that honey mesquite and velvet mesquite are the main category 3 invader *Prosopis* species in the Northern Cape. He further indicated that about 360 000ha of land in the Northern Cape had closed *Prosopis* stands which used about 90 billion litres of water per annum. The mean annual run-off due to *Prosopis* is between 2 – 3 % in the Northern Cape. He reported that since 2001 to date, Working for Water has cleared about 63000 ha of land infested with *Prosopis* sp. at a cost of R220 million. He further reported that, his organization was allocated a budget of R13 million in the current financial year (2018/ 2019) for control of invasive plants.

f. Drought relief projects, drought management plan / policy, awareness and impact assessment

Mr O Thebe presented on the approach used by his Department in managing drought conditions, and highlighted four key drought types.



Picture 6: Mr O Thebe (DWS), presenting “Drought relief projects, drought management plan / policy, awareness and impact assessment”.

He indicated that at the start of the current drought, there was confusion on who had to lead the response coordination. This he said, was attributable to lack of understanding on who the owner of a drought disaster was. He highlighted that the average ground water level is observed and reported to be declining, including quality thereof. Mr Thebe encouraged all to participate in the fight against illegal water connections in the Northern Cape as this affected water supply to other districts such as Namakwa. He emphasized the need to improve coordination in the assessment and verification of drought, and to ensure rapid response to water shortages as a result of drought. He highlighted the need for improvement of capacity of Municipalities or Water Service Boards as implementing agents of water supply to localities. He further highlighted the need for an enhanced drought monitoring and floods early warning systems; and the need to improve and better coordinate communication in the management of drought or any future disasters such as floods.

g. Exploring Adaptation Scenarios: Drought, a Multi-Faceted, Slow-onset Phenomena

Dr Moeletsi presented on projects implemented by the ARC – Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo with relevance to the current drought. Amongst technologies shared by Dr Moeletsi, is rainwater harvesting technology. Dr Moeletsi encouraged participants to promote conservation agriculture – minimum tillage as an adaptation strategy to drought. He also confirmed satellite data which suggests that SA vegetation is under water stress. He echoed sentiments by the Department of Water and Sanitation for improved drought monitoring. The development of drought early warning systems is necessary and improved drought information dissemination to users.



Picture 7: Dr M Moeletsi (ARC) presenting “Exploring Adaptation Scenarios: Drought, a Multi-Faceted, Slow-onset Phenomena”.

h. Drought management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers - KZN

Mr Sibongiseni Ngema shared KZN experiences in managing drought disaster including the role of the PDMC coordinating, facilitation and provisioning of support. Mr Ngema depicted, using Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal as the most areas stricken by drought.



Picture 8: Mr Sibongiseni Ngema (KZN PDMC) presenting “Drought Management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers in KwaZulu-Natal”.

Mr Ngema reported on various interventions implemented by the Province as part of managing drought disaster, inclusive of: war on water leaks, implementation of water restrictions. Mr Ngema pointed a few sectoral interventions which included supply of water tankers to

communities by Department of Water and Sanitation. He reported that among stakeholders who played a role in drought disaster management were the Department of Basic Education (DBE) who installed water tanks in some schools in areas of high risk of water scarcity; Wildlife supplied water to communities through use of water tankers. The Province drilled, equipped and refurbished some boreholes. A further funding of R122 Million was approved for the extension of drought interventions. However, there were shortcomings in drought disaster management, the Province lacked drought management/ contingency plans.

i. Drought management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers – Western Cape

Mr Kwela Nceba outlined various strategies deployed by the Western Cape Government in averting “Day-Zero”. Mr Nceba shared few proposals for future management of slow-onset disasters like drought, amongst others: clarity on the roles between various government sector departments and consistent risk communication and messaging.



Picture 9: Mr Kwela Nceba (WC PDMC) presenting “Drought Management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers in Western Cape”.

j. Voice of Farmers

Ms S Vivashi gave a profile of her farming enterprise and highlighted some of the challenges farmers are faced with under the drought conditions. Her farm is focused on three commodities: cattle, goats and sheep. She reported that over the recent past, there has been a substantial decrease in rainfall and veld production thus impacting of livestock productivity and source of livelihood. As a farmer, she was forced to adapt her farming approach, fed livestock and send them into the market earlier than it is of economic benefit. Amongst challenges highlighted, was the lack of support for small-scale or emerging farmers. She asked for support from government, intervene into difficulties in livestock farming under drought conditions. Though she appreciated the efforts of various government departments, however, Ms Vivashi pointed to the fact that the control of invasive plants is not an immediate solution to livestock producers as veld rehabilitation takes time, therefore emphasized importance of comprehensive support from government in order to remain in business during the current drought conditions.

k. Land Care for Agricultural Productivity

Mr V Mohlabe indicated in his presentation that land degradation is a result of human actions, to an extent that, if soils could be human and talk, it would opt out degraded farms. Mr Mohlabe emphasized importance of sustained interventions in addressing long term drought impacts. He also emphasized a need to educate the youth and build human capacity (information) in mitigating the effects of disasters.



Picture 10: Mr V Mohlabe (DAFF) presenting on “Land Care for Agricultural Productivity”.

l. Fire Services 1: Case Study on Capacitating Namakwa DM on Fire Services

Mr Lloyd Phetlhu and Mr Leon Vermulen presented on fire services capacitation in Namakwa District Municipality as supported by SANTAM.

m. Fire Services 2 – Public-Private Partnerships

Dr Khangale presented on the current partnerships between the NDMC and Namakwa District Municipality in building the capacity of fire services in the District.

n. Improving Veldfires Preparedness: A 12 Point Plan

Dr Moses Khangale presented a 12 point plan on improving veld fires preparedness by District Municipalities, with special focus to Namakwa District Municipality.

o. Dolomite Incident Management

Ms N Mankayi presented on prevalent geo-hazards in South Africa. She gave an outline of her organisation that is established as per Geo-Science Act 100 of 1993 (as amended), and indicated that the functions are guided by the Constitution, Municipal Systems Act, Disaster Management Act and the National Development Plan. She highlighted the need for coordination towards sustainable development on dolomitic land. Dolomite is a carbonate rock – when it rots, forms compactible rock with cavities. She indicated that Dolomite occurrence is prominent in parts of the Northern Cape (5% of land) and parts of the North West, extending to Gauteng. Ms Mankayi highlighted the fact that repair of sinkholes is very costly. She then emphasized

sustainable land use and management practices in dolomitic areas. Sinkholes influence property value. The Council use SANS 1936 and NHBRC 2015 Manual in guiding development of areas located in dolomitic areas. Dolomite risk assessment considers gravity survey exercise. Storm water management is critical for houses build in dolomitic sites. Proper and adequate investigations, appropriate precautionary measures and risk management are essential.

p. Private Sector Roles in Disaster Risk Management

Dr Moses Khangale presented on behalf of SANTAM. The presentation is available.

4. PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE WITH PRESENTERS – DRM PRACTITIONERS SESSION



**5. COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION
a. MINISTER: COGTA, PREMIER: NC & MEC: COGHSTA NC AND OFFICIALS
INSPECTS FLOOD WALL AND SHOWN PROSOPIS INVADER PLANT**



b. SECTORAL IMBIZO/ IDDR 2018 ADDRESSED BY POLITICAL PRINCIPALS



c. Role-players and participants at the DRM Practitioners Session and the Sectoral Imbizo - IDDR 2018





Table 1: Suggested actions from presentations; discussion and speeches for consideration

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS	ACTION ISSUES	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Purpose of the DRM Practitioners Session, NDMC - Dr Mmaphaka Tau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imperatives derived from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRRR) which amongst others encapsulate, managing the existing risks, preventing emergence of new risks; and ensuring that we build back better 	a) Craft disaster risk adaptation and mitigation measures	Ongoing	NDMC; PDMCs & DDMCs
2. The Effects of Drought on Vegetation: Earth Observation, SANSA – Nosiseko Mashiyi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on drought monitoring is one of valuable data sets which may assist disaster managers in managing and monitoring drought, including simulation of potential impacts to crops and rangelands 	b) NDMC to facilitate information and data to provincial and municipal awareness/advocacy sessions	Ongoing	CD:ETAR
3. Climate Variability and Climate Change: Exploring Modelling Scenarios for the Country, SAWS – Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa in the global climate – climate and weather phenomena occurring in other parts of the world affect the climatic conditions of others parts of the world South Africa is amongst countries projected to experience an increase of 1 – 2 Degrees Celsius annual near-surface temperatures, suggesting global warming is upon us and real It is observed that the country will receive below normal rainfall 	<p>c) NDMC to facilitate registration and update of stakeholders into SAWS database to receive information (warnings, alerts) and data to guide planning of disaster risk management interventions, including sharing such information at DRM awareness sessions (risk communication)</p> <p>d) Manage existing risks, plan to reduce emerging and future risks</p> <p>e) Derive value and act upon receipt of early warnings</p> <p>f) Develop an inclusive and responsive approach to climate change for South Africa</p>	Ongoing	<p>CD:ETAR & D: ITIIMS</p> <p>CD: DRR PRC CD: LPM</p> <p>DEA</p>

<p>4. Nexus Between Invasive Plants and Drought: The Effect of Invasive Plants in Ecosystems of the NC, DEA - Mr L Ferreira</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of mean annual runoff – focus of the presentation • Since 2001 (Working for Water) cleared 63000 condition of <i>Prosopis</i> at a cost of R220 million rand using a budget of R13 million 	<p>g) Impact analysis of Drought Funding (cost-benefit analysis) and to follow up with the coordination of other departments</p> <p>h) Quantify the current extent of invader plants densities in the Northern Cape</p> <p>i) Invest more in research and other solutions – compare impacts of</p> <p>j) Biocontrol and other alternative control measures</p> <p>k) Invest more (4 – 5% budget increase from current allocations) in the control of <i>Prosopis</i></p> <p>l) Stimulate the biomass to energy market</p> <p>m) Increase in other operations, bring in private sector and encourage their role in eradicating invader plant species</p>	<p>Before end of FY</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>CD: DRR PRC</p> <p>DEA</p> <p>DEA/ DAFF/ DRDLR/ DWS</p> <p>DEA/ DAFF</p> <p>DEA/ DAFF DEA/ DAFF/ DTI</p> <p>DEA/ DAFF/NDMC</p>
<p>5. Drought relief projects, drought management plan / policy, awareness and impact assessment, DWS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of highlighting four drought types • At start of the current drought, there was confusion on who should coordinate response to current drought • Average ground water level in the decline, including quality of water 	<p>n) Mitigate against illegal water connections affects water supply to other districts such as Namakwa</p> <p>o) Improved coordination in the assessment and verification of drought</p> <p>p) Improve capacity of Municipalities or water services boards as implementing agents of water supply to localities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DCoG B2B</p> <p>NDMC/NC PDMC</p> <p>DCoG / DWS</p>

		<p>q) Enhance drought and floods early warning systems</p> <p>r) Improve and better coordinate communication in the management of drought or any future disasters such as floods</p>		<p>D: ITIIMS</p> <p>DWS/ NDMC / PDMCs</p>
<p>6. Exploring Adaptation Scenarios: Drought, A Multi-Faceted, Slow-onset Phenomena, ARC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects implemented through research initiatives by ARC – Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo • Rainwater harvesting • Conservation agriculture – minimum tillage as an adaptation strategy to drought 	<p>s) Improved monitoring of drought needed and better early warning systems</p> <p>t) Improved drought information dissemination to users</p>	Ongoing	<p>ARC; DWS; DAFF; PDMC's and Municipalities</p>
<p>7. Drought management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers - KZN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the PDMC was coordinating, facilitation and provisioning of support • Various interventions implemented such as war on water leaks, implementation of water restrictions • Sectoral interventions included supply of tankers to communities by DWS • DBE also installed water tanks in some schools in areas of high risk of water scarcity • Wildlife also participated in the drought management • Boreholes drilled, equipped and refurbished 	<p>u) Lessons from KZN to be shared with other provinces</p>	Ongoing	<p>CD: DRR PRC</p>
<p>8. Drought management: Interventions in Sustaining the Provincial Economic Activities/ Drivers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Cape presentation • Outlined strategies implemented to manage drought • Proposed three resolutions into drought intervention 	<p>v) Lessons from KZN to be shared with other provinces</p>	Ongoing	<p>CD: DRR PRC</p> <p>CD: ETAR</p>
<p>9. Voice of farmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced to adapt farming approach, feed livestock and send them into the market earlier than it is of economic benefit 	<p>w) Support to Farmers to be reviewed and confirmed</p>	Ongoing	<p>DAFF</p> <p>CD: DRR PRC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked for support from government, intervene into difficulties in livestock farming under drought conditions 			
10.Land Care for Agricultural Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land degradation is as a result of our actions, Proactive intervention in addressing drought – creeping, slow-onset hazard • Educate the youth and build human capacity (information) in mitigating the effects of disasters 	<p>x) DAFF to share programme / project information with sector departments, provinces and municipalities</p> <p>y) NDMC to support DAFF in this mission</p>	Ongoing	DAFF CD: DRR PRC CD; ETAR
11.Fire Services Case Study on Capacitating Namakwa DM on Fire Services; Private Pubic Partnerships and 12 Point Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Lessons shared on Private Public Partnerships; smoke detectors and 12 point plan 	<p>z) Fire Services 12 Point Plan and lessons from Namakwa to be sheared with all PDMC and relevant municipalities</p>		NDMC D: Fire Services
12.Dolomite Incident Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANS 1936 and NHBRC 2015 Manual are key documents guiding development of areas located in dolomitic areas • Dolomite risk assessment considers gravity survey exercise • Storm water management is critical for houses build in dolomitic sites 	<p>aa) NC PDMC to follow up with JTG DM; DHS and municipal planners to check on their SADF and Land Use Management Plans, especially if they have taken identified risks into account</p> <p>bb) Conduct Awareness Session at JTG DM and LMs</p>	<p>Before end of FY</p> <p>Before end of FY</p>	<p>NC PDMC</p> <p>CD: ETAR</p>

13.Flood Management Wall Visit by Minister Z Mkhize (MP) and other leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that The Flood Management walls were not completed and a possible R200 M was needed 	cc) NDMC to liaise with DAFF to confirm funding needs and investigate possibilities with NT for the completion of the wall	Before end of FY	CD: DRR PRC
14.Speech by Premier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PDMC is effective which could be due to its placement; number of personal; capacity; capability or such like. 	dd) NDMC to follow up with NC Province to check possibilities of reviewing the placement, capacity and capabilities of PDMC with the objective of checking the possibility of improving the effective of the PDMC	Before end of FCY	CD: LPM

6. ANALYSIS OF THE SESSION BASED ON COMPLETED EVALUATION FORMS

The IDDR 2018 commemoration was held over 2 days (Disaster Risk Management Practitioners Session and the IDDR). The commemoration recorded attendance of 128% (a total of 179 participants attended the DRM Practitioners session held on 15 November 2018 and 350 people attended the main commemoration held on 16 November 2018). However, **only 54 participants submitted completed evaluation forms of the session.**

The evaluation forms were designed to capture valuable information that, if analysed, may give a sense of how the sessions may have benefited the participants, including assisting the planning team identify areas of improvement for future events. The evaluation was structured into two sections, namely: feedback on presentations and general or detailed comments.

Table 2: Record of evaluation feedback received from participants – Presentations at the DRM Practitioners Session and the IDDR 2018

PRESENTATION	FEEDBACK RECEIVED		
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Purpose of the IDDR practitioners workers session -NDMC	47	5	0
Exploring adaptation scenarios: Drought ,a multi-faceted slow onset: ARC	47	6	0
Climate variability and change: Exploring modelling scenarios: SAWS	49	5	0
Nexus between invasive plants and drought: DEA	36	16	1
Drought relief projects: DWS	39	11	1
GENERAL OR DETAILED COMMENTS TO ASSIST IN FUTURE SESSIONS			
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Drought Management and key lessons :KZN PDMC	42	12	0
Drought Management and key lessons :WC PDMC	41	16	0
Voice of farmers	32	18	1
Farming under drought conditions :GWK	32	15	1
Land Care and Agricultural productivity	41	11	0
Fire Services :case study on Namaqua	46	8	0
Fire Services and Public Private Partnerships	44	9	0
FACILITATION ,VENUE , GENERAL LOGISTICS AND CATERING			
	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Facilitation A	42	11	0
Facilitation B	46	7	0
Venue and general logistics	34	20	0
Catering	31	15	4

Summary of analysis:

- Out of 12 presentations evaluated, 78% (average of 41.33) of respondents rated the presentations as good, with 21% (average of 11 respondents) rating all presentations as average and 1% (average of 0.33 respondents) rated the presentations as poor.
- The minimum and maximum number of people who rated each presentations as good, average and poor respectively, ranged between 32 – 49; 5 – 18 and 0 – 1.

Further feedback was received on the following: facilitation, venue and general logistics and catering services. The following can be deduced from data contained in the table 1 above:

Out of four issues evaluated, 73% (average of 38.25) of respondents gave an overall rating for facilitation, venue and general logistics and catering services as good, with 25% (average of 13.25) respondents rating it as average and 2% (average of 0.33) respondents rating it as poor. The minimum and maximum number of people who rated facilitation, venue and general logistics and catering services good, average and poor respectively, ranged between 32 - 49; 5 – 18 and 0 – 1.

The above analysis suggests that, a significant number of participants rated the sessions as good, at both the Disaster Risk Management Practitioners Session and the IDDR 2018, this is inclusive of facilitation, venue and logistics and catering services offered.

Table 3: Specific comments recorded by participants who evaluated the sessions

STRENGTHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and informative - sharing of best practice contributed to building of knowledge base of the participants • Presenters showed in-depth knowledge of the specific subject areas presented • The presented topics or focal areas within designated themes were very enlightening, interactive and supported by robust discussions • The conferencing venue was good and accessible to most participants, including disabled persons • Registration of participants was well coordinated • The sessions were well planned and coordinated, including structure of the contents presented • Participants recommended similar sessions in the near future as part of extending disaster risk management education and awareness • The session afforded participants an opportunity to interact, learn from each other and establish networks between various stakeholders and role-players in disaster risk management • Presentations were well sequenced and packaged for presentation • Government visibility and accountability
WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DRM Practitioners session was long (programme of the day 1) • Organisers should give space for status of the Disaster Management and Fire Services in the Northern Cape • Involvement of communities at local level should be strengthened • Presentations should be contained within allocated time • The session started later than anticipated and this resulted in late afternoon finish • There was limited times given for audience to ask questions. • Public Announcement system not effective and overpowered by the mobile air conditioners at the venue • Time management • There was a perception that Local Government is not that visible and accountable to communities

Table 4: Suggested areas of improvement

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time management for the whole programme, including presenters • Presenters should limit their presentations to contents as guided by organizers • Must improve venue lighting and air-conditioning • More water to be served during the proceedings, especially when the day is scorching hot • Questions should be short and precise • Thorough preparation of the support / holding rooms at the venue • Timely issue of invitations to enable sufficient time for logistical travel arrangements by stakeholders • Shorten the programme for DRM Practitioners Session and allow for more engagements

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Jennifer Lekalakala delivered the closing remarks at the DRM Practitioners Session on behalf of Dr Mmaphaka Tau (**TAG C**). The closing note was a summary of the proceedings and highlighted important actions pursuant following hosting of the session.

Approved/ Approved as amended/ not approved

Dr Mmaphaka Tau
Deputy Director-General (Head): National Disaster Management Centre

Date: