



**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 11 APRIL 2022

To: DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

Cc: CHIEF DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT; DD: DISASTER MANAGEMENT

From: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: DISASTER MANAGEMENT; EWS SYSTEMS

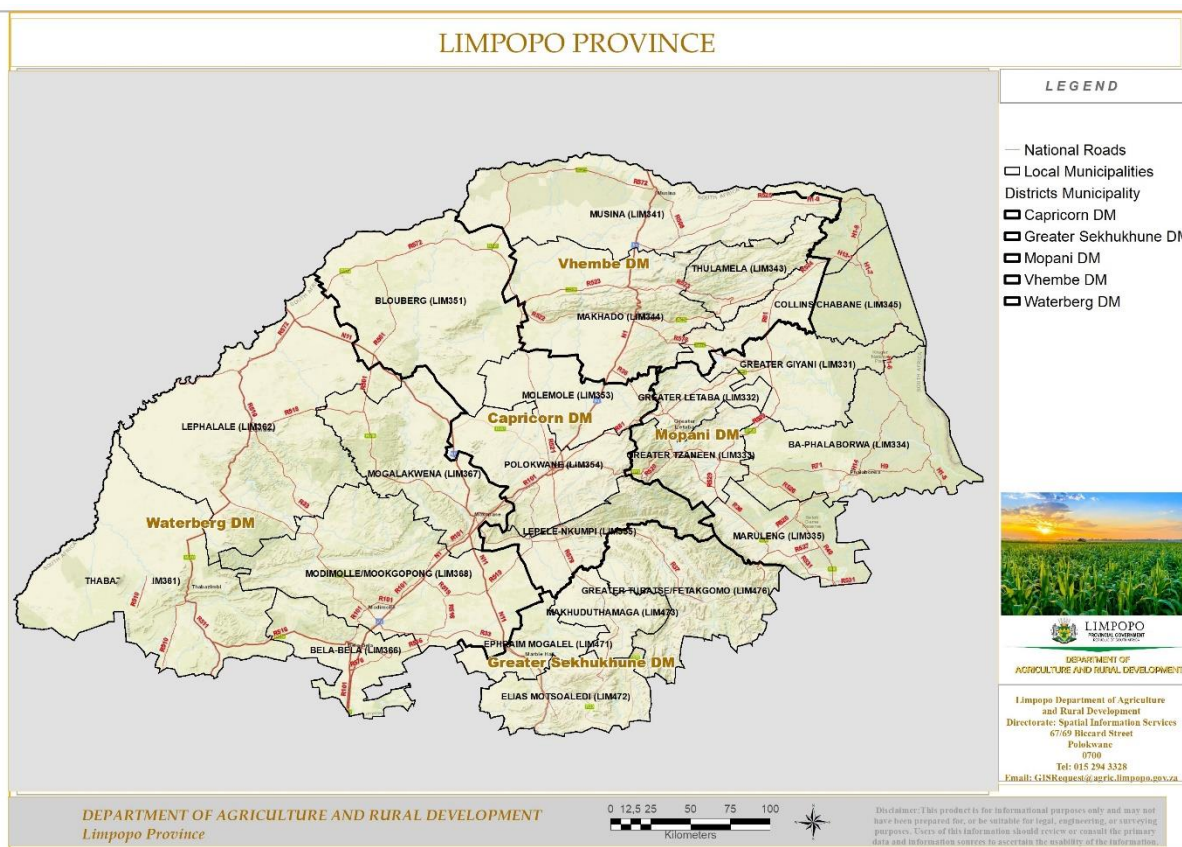
Subject: WARNING: DISRUPTIVE RAIN IS EXPECTED OVER SOUTH-WESTERN PARTS OF LIMPOPO.

Reference: 14/3/2

Enquiries: MS. MAKANANISI FM

Please find Severe Weather Warning Service information issued by SAWS for Limpopo

Hazard	Alert Level	Valid From (SAST)	Valid To (SAST)
Heavy rain associated with localised flooding	Warning	11/04/2021	11/04/2021 23h00



Yellow level 2 warning for disruptive rain, leading to localized flooding of low lying roads and susceptible informal settlements as well as poor driving conditions can be expected over the western and southern parts of Limpopo to cover areas such (Waterberg, Thabazimbi, Bela-Bela and some parts of Sekhukhune.

Advisory: Watch (colour coded amber), meaning “be prepared”. Hazardous weather is likely to occur in the next 1 to 3 days. This level advises the public and response agencies to be prepared, as the risk of significant or widespread disruption increases.

Flooding occurs when water overflows its normal channels such as streams and storm water drains. It can occur with prolonged period of rain, with continuous heavy falls or in the form of flash floods which are usually associated with severe thunderstorms. Heavy rain may also result in river flooding causing damage downstream to areas that may receive no rainfall at all during the flooding event.

Heavy rainfall raises the water level. When the water level is higher than the river banks or the dams, water comes out from the river and flooding occurs.

Preventive measures:

- construct proper drainage system – shallow Drains due to silts must be cleaned constantly as they ensure proper water irrigation
- Increased evaporative losses, mechanical land treatment of slopes, such as contour ploughing or terracing, to reduce the runoff coefficient.
- Construction of small water and sediment holding areas.
- The construction of floodways (man-made channels to divert floodwater).
- Terracing hillsides to slow flow downhill.

What to do when heavy rainfall is forecasted:

Avoid-

- Cutting grass in the rainy season (nutrient depletion).
- Applying fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying n fertilizer (burning of plants) (nitrogen loss is higher during heavy rain), immediately follows a surface application of fertilizer, especially on sloped areas.
- Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burned and die).
- Irrigation (waterlogging can occur, nutrient depletion).
 - Cover urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
 - Provide shelter for animals (young ones die easily).
 - Leave cultivated areas coarse.
 - Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
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Following are a number of concerns and recommendations:

- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and the high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.

- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is necessary especially if it is already raining, but remembers that there could be a storm further upstream and floodwaters could be on the way.
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A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly nac advisory. it can be accessed from the following websites www.dalrrd.gov.za; and www.weathersa.co.za

The disaster management act (act no. 57 of 2002) urges provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information.

For more information contact Provincial Disaster Risk Management and Vulnerability:

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Ms Makananisi FM 060 978 2175

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