

SP 7: The Establishment and Functioning of the Waterberg Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee (MIDRMC)

Purpose

The Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002 (DM Act) requires municipal disaster risk management centres to promote a coordinated, integrated and uniform approach to disaster risk management, including the development and implementation of appropriate disaster risk reduction methodologies, emergency preparedness and rapid and effective disaster response and recovery, in their municipalities.

To achieve these objectives and to promote interdepartmental liaison, arrangements must be put in place to enable all the key internal role players in the administration of a municipality to participate in disaster risk management activities and to coordinate their disaster risk management responsibilities. To achieve this objective, a Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee (MIDRMC) must be established.

Management and administration

The Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee of the Waterberg District Municipality must be established by the head of the Waterberg Municipal Disaster Risk Management Centre.

The head of the disaster risk management centre is responsible for the strategic direction and execution of the requirements of the DM Act and must therefore chair the MIDRMC.

The disaster risk management centre must provide the secretariat for the MIDRMC and must ensure that accurate records of the activities of the MIDRMC are maintained.

Composition of the Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee

The Municipal Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committee of the Waterberg District Municipality must consist of the heads of departments and key staff from all departments in the municipal administration and municipal entities involved in the management of disaster risk or in the administration of any other national legislation aimed at dealing with an occurrence defined as a disaster in terms of section 1 of the DM Act.

The MIDRMC must include key staff holding the portfolios listed below.

Office of the municipal manager

(List relevant posts here)

Directorate

(List relevant posts here)

Directorate

(List relevant posts here)

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Directorate

(List relevant posts here)

Directorate

(List relevant posts here)

Key personnel from disciplines within the various municipal departments or entities who have specific technical expertise in disaster risk management must be specifically designated by the head of the relevant department or entity to serve on the MIDRMC.

The composition of the MIDRMC does not preclude the co-option of additional staff nor does it preclude the ad hoc co-option of specialised expertise for specific purposes.

Scope of responsibilities

The MIDRMC in the municipality must facilitate integrated and coordinated planning by providing a forum for the development and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at disaster risk reduction and other relevant disaster risk management activities in the municipality. In this respect, the responsibilities and powers of municipal councils and municipal disaster risk management centres are prescribed in sections 47, 48, 52 and 53 of the DM Act.

The MIDRMC must support the disaster risk management centre and assist with supervising the preparation, coordination, monitoring and review of disaster risk management plans and their integration into other developmental processes.

For the purpose of implementing sections 47 and 48 and any other relevant imperatives of the DM Act, the responsibilities of the MIDRMC need to include:

In respect of disaster risk reduction:

- monitoring, assessing and coordinating departmental disaster risk management planning and implementation, with a particular focus on disaster risk reduction policies, practices and strategies;
- coordinating, monitoring progress and facilitating collaboration on joint projects and programmes and ensuring their integration into other developmental programmes;
- annually reviewing the disaster risk management policy framework of the Waterberg District Municipality, departmental disaster risk management plans, the plans of other municipal entities and those of local municipalities to ensure that they are integrated, current and consistent with the Eastern Cape Provincial Disaster Risk Management Policy Framework and the National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF);
- promoting joint standards of practice within and between municipal departments and other municipal entities and between local municipalities in the district;
- monitoring progress made with the implementation of priority projects aimed at disaster risk reduction;
- participating in biannual desk-top exercises to remain current with regard to roles and responsibilities in the activation and operation of the disaster operations centre and to ensure rapid and efficient response and recovery in the event of a local disaster occurring or threatening to occur; and
- making recommendations to the disaster risk management centre of the Waterberg District Municipality regarding disaster risk management policy and related disaster risk management matters.

In respect of response and recovery operations:

- on receipt of an activation alert from the head of the disaster risk management centre (or someone designated by the head), immediately reporting to the disaster operations centre when a disaster classified by the head of the centre as a local disaster occurs or is threatening to occur;
- conducting initial and specialist post-disaster assessments for the functional area of the relevant department or entity;
- ensuring rapid departmental response to disasters;
- ensuring efficient and coordinated disaster response and recovery operations;
- monitoring progress of technical teams tasked with post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation projects;
- ensuring that reports on progress with disaster recovery are regularly submitted to the disaster risk management centre of the Waterberg District Municipality; and
- ensuring that all documentation and records relating to the disaster are retained and placed in safe keeping for the purpose of a post-disaster investigation, inquiry or review.

Frequency of meetings

The committee must meet at least quarterly. Depending on prevailing circumstances, it may meet more or less frequently.

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