

DECLARATION

I Peter Emmanuel Mayanja Ddungu declare that this research report is my own work. It is being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before, in whole, or in part for any degree or examination at this or any other University.

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Peter Emmanuel Mayanja Ddungu

7th Day of October 2008.

DEDICATION

To my late parents Justin and Marjorie Ddungu – forever grateful for your example, provision and inspiration.

To my beloved wife Elizabeth and children (Tendo, Suubi and Mulungi) – for your abiding support and the privilege of growing together.

To my Heavenly Father – eternally grateful for new mercies every morning and your great faithfulness.

ABSTRACT

Disasters are events that cause death, injury or disease, damage to property, damage to the environment and disrupt the life of the community. The majority of South Africa's population lives in fragile and vulnerable conditions due to high levels of poverty, low standards of living and lack of access to resources. The risk of further disaster occurrences is increased by population growth outstripping available residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial development leading to occupation of "at risk" areas such as flood plains. Furthermore South Africa's extensive coastline and proximity to shipping routes present various meteorological and marine threats.

The Disaster Management Act, 2002 (No. 57 of 2002) was promulgated in January 2003 and seeks to focus on disaster risk reduction and prevention. Among other things, the Act requires every sphere of government to develop disaster management plans. It is not clear how much progress has been made by local government in Gauteng province in this regard.

A cross-sectional descriptive survey was conducted to evaluate the disaster management function of municipalities in Gauteng province as at February 2008. The study aim was broken down into three study objectives; a) to determine the availability of disaster management plans; b) to determine the degree of compliance of each disaster management plan to the standard required by the Act and c) to determine the disaster management capacity of each municipality.

A questionnaire was forwarded at least two weeks before Key informant interviews with designated disaster managers were conducted. Following each interview a physical site inspection of each Disaster Management Centre was carried out and assessed against a uniform check list. All six metropolitan and district municipalities were evaluated with no abstention.

The key findings of the study were that;

- 66.7% (four out of six municipalities) had approved disaster management plans. The remaining two had draft plans. All the plans were level 1 disaster management plans.
- In terms of compliance of the disaster management plans, the municipalities scored between 65.6% - 84.4% with an overall average score for Gauteng province at 75%.
- In terms of capacity to carry out their disaster management function; the municipalities ranged from 35.5% - 78% with the overall average for Gauteng province at 65.6%. Significantly Metsweding district municipality was the only municipality in Gauteng province without a Disaster Management Centre.

The study made the following recommendations;

- The National Disaster Management Centre and subsequently the Provincial Disaster Management Centre need to develop a Remedial plan of action with new time frames for the development of level 3 disaster management plans that are realistic. The Remedial plan of action should prioritize which objectives and Key Performance Indicators in the Disaster Risk Management Framework are deliverable in the immediate term, the medium term and over the long term.
- The establishment of a Disaster Management Centre for Metsweding district municipality. This will require that the municipality engages with the Provincial and National Disaster management Centres about the allocation of a conditional grant to fund start up costs as provided for in the Disaster Risk Management Framework (Enabler 3 – funding arrangements).
- The National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres need to provide guidelines on the standards/norms for the staffing requirements of a Disaster Management Centre as well as the physical infrastructure requirements of a Municipal Disaster Management Centre.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DMP	Disaster Management Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
KPA	Key Performance Area
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MDMC	Municipal Disaster Management Centre
MMC	Municipal Mayoral Committee
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NDMF	National Disaster Management Framework
PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Centre
PPO	Project Portfolio Office
UN/ISDR	United Nations – International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WHO	World Health Organization

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