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27 February 2024

South African Weather Service holds a workshop aimed at bridging the gap between climate-driven risk management and the resilience of Free State communities

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) will this week take the Integrated Climate-Driven Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (ICMHEWS) programme to the community of Lejweleputswa District Municipality in the Free State. The ICMHEWS is a pioneering initiative that aims to bridge the gap between climate-driven risk management and the fortification of community resilience.

South Africa is among the southern African countries that are susceptible to hazardous weather and negative climate change impacts. These include severe floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, storms, and heat waves.

The Free State has, in recent times, encountered unprecedented and remarkable levels of precipitation, accompanied by severe thunderstorms and hail, resulting in extensive damage to countless households, infrastructure, crops, and vegetation.

This has evoked an urgent need for the SAWS to collaborate with various stakeholders in the disaster management value chain such as the Red Cross, Provincial Disaster Management, and members of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality Council to ensure that communities effectively confront the multifaceted challenges posed by ever-evolving climate patterns and are further proactive to climate change-induced hazards.

In pursuit of this, the SAWS will host a workshop focused on early warnings for climate hazards and risks within district municipalities, disaster risk reduction and mitigation strategies for protecting people and property.

The workshop will be held as follows:

- Date: 28 February 2024
- Venue: Omari Lodge, 125 Jan Hofmeyer Rd, Doorn, Welkom, Free State
- Time: 9:30 - 16:00

**Certified for
Excellence**

Board Members: Ms Feziwe Renqe (Chairperson), Mr Itani Phaduli (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Sandika Daya, Ms Mmapula Kgari, Ms Nana Magomola, Prof Sylvester Mpandeli, Dr Grant Son, Dr Mmaphaka Tau, Mr Maesela Kekana (DFFE Rep), Mr Ishaam Abader (CEO).
Company Secretary: Mr Nkululeko Ndebele

The ICMHEWS project is funded by the Government of Flanders (GOF) to develop a robust and user-inspired (government and communities) ICMHEWS. The GOF is the executive branch of the Flemish community and the Flemish region of Belgium. The SAWS has been assigned as the Executing Entity for the implementation of the project supported by the GOF aid.

The SAWS is an entity of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and derives its mandate from the South African Weather Service Act (No 8 of 2001 as amended). It is tasked with providing timely and accurate scientific data in the field of meteorology to the broader South African society.

Journalists wishing to cover the event are requested to confirm attendance with Ms Musiiwa Denga on Musiiwa.Denga@weathersa.co.za or 068 268 0414 (WhatsApp). Interview requests can also be communicated to Ms Denga.

ENDS

For technical and weather enquiries:

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