

24 April 2024

South African Weather Service (SAWS) takes knowledge and robust discussions on early weather warnings and community resilience to uMgungundlovu, KwaZulu-Natal

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is this week back in uMgungundlovu, KwaZulu-Natal, on the second leg of the Integrated Climate-Driven Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (ICMHEWS). The ICMHEWS programme 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. **KwaZulu-Natal is among the provinces that have encountered unprecedented levels severe thunderstorms, resulting in loss of life, extensive damage to property and destruction of critical infrastructure.**

It is for this reason that the SAWS continues to collaborate with various stakeholders in the disaster management value chain such as the Provincial Disaster Management, the Red Cross, and members of the uMgungundlovu District Municipality in workshops as seen this week. The workshops seek to empower attendees with important information on how to effectively confront the multifaceted challenges posed by ever-evolving climate patterns while helping communities to be resilient to climate-induced hazards.

On **Day 4** of the week-long programme, **Thursday, April 25, 2024**, the SAWS will host a **community outreach event in Thembalihle outside Pietermaritzburg**. The event is aimed at enabling locals to engage directly with weather and climate experts and other disaster management value chain practitioners on area-specific hazards and safety precautions communities should employ to safeguard lives and property. The attendees, who will include school children, people living with disabilities and the elderly, will receive first-hand information on how to confront the challenges posed by climate patterns.

The event will take place as follows:

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

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Venue: Thembalihle Community Hall, Thembalihle, Pietermaritzburg

Time: 09:00

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 Musiwa Denga on Musiwa.Denga@weathersa.co.za.

ENDS

For technical and weather enquiries:

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

Media enquiries: Mr Oupa Segalwe: Senior Manager, Communication and Stakeholder Relations; Tel: (012) 367 6111; Cell: 072 264 3273; E-mail: oupa.segalwe@weathersa.co.za

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