

## Taaiboschspruit Farm (Panbult) Tornado: Mpumalanga

On Friday evening, 3 January 2020, severe thunderstorms developed over the Gert Sibande District of Mpumalanga. One of the thunderstorms intensified into a supercell thunderstorm south east of Ermelo, remaining over the area for approximately 40 minutes.

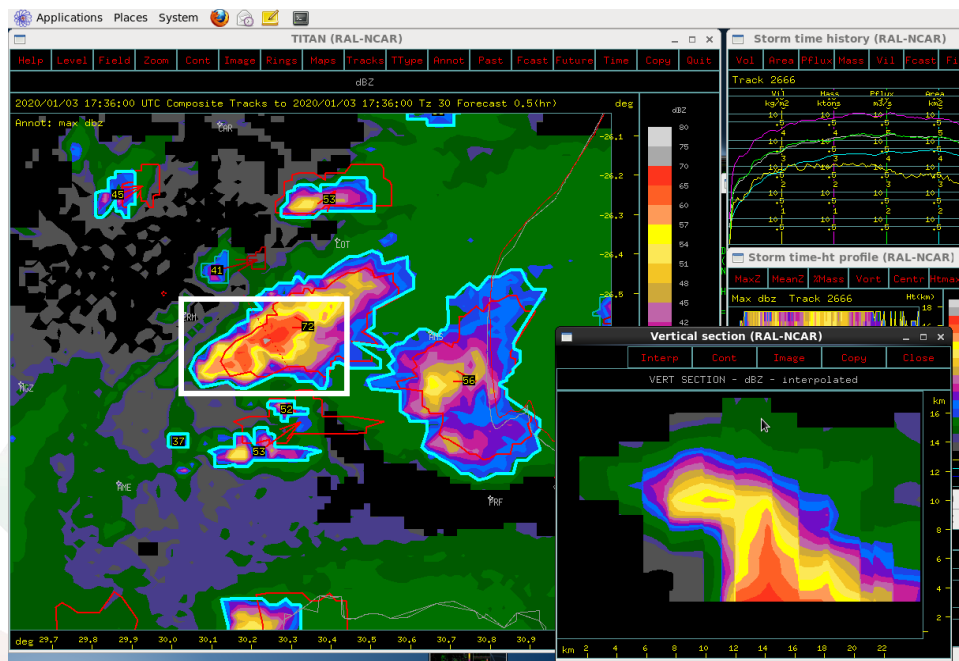


Figure 1: Radar image showing the supercell storm in the white block south east of Ermelo, as well as the cross section through the storm.

At 19:34 local time, a severe thunderstorm warning was issued by the South African Weather Service for the area. Later in the evening images as well and videos of a tornado in Panbult began circulating on social media.

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**Company Secretary:** Ms Thandi Zide



Warning:03/01/2020 19h30 TO:03/01/2020 23h00 Severe Thunderstorms-are observed over the Albert Luthuli, Msukaligwa and Mkhondo local municipalities with heavy downpours, large hail and damaging winds (Mpu).

Figure 2: Severe Thunderstorm Warning sent by SAWS

With the help of Mpumalanga Disaster Management, the Mkhondo Fire and Rescue, the South African Weather Service managed to contact the owner of Taaiboschspruit Farm, Mr Kurt Paul, who suffered great damage due to this particular severe thunderstorm. After gathering sufficient information on the extent of damage inflicted on the structures and vegetation, the South African Weather Service can confirm an **EF3 tornado** (as determined in relation to the Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale) passed through Taaiboschspruit Farm.



Figure 3: Damage caused by the tornado (pictures supplied by Mr Kurt Paul).

According to Mr Paul, the houses of seven families were destroyed, as well as approximately 200ha of pine forest, due to this storm.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to these weather systems and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public is urged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio.

Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at [www.weathersa.co.za](http://www.weathersa.co.za) as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account **@SAWeatherServic**

**Compiled by:** Jacqueline Modika

**Edited by:** Vanetia Phakula and Mbavhi Maliage

**For technical and weather enquiries:**

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

**Media enquiries:** Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, External Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: [hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za](mailto:hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za)