

27 MAY 2009
DIMTEC INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION

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- **An evaluation of the implementation of the disaster management act 57 of 2002 with specific reference to integrated institutional capacity within the Vhembe district municipality**
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Outline of presentation

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- **AIM OF THE STUDY**
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- **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**
- **WHY IS CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
IMPORTANT IN DISASTER
MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA?**

OUTLINE, CONT

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- **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**
- **WHY INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT?**

- **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**
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- **CONCLUSION**
- **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

AIM OF PRESENTATION

- **The aim of this presentation is to present the findings of the study undertaken within the Vhembe District Municipality which was evaluating the extent to which this District has established the integrated institutional capacity for disaster management as stipulated in the Act and the Framework.**

INTRODUCTION

- **EXPERIENCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS HAVE CAUSED MASSIVE DAMAGES, LOSS OF LIVES AND DESTRUCTION OF LIVELIHOODS OVER THE YEARS.**
- **THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA IS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH ALL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE COUNTRY.**

INTRO

- THE DIVERSITY OF ROLE-PLAYERS INVOLVED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE APPROACH NECESSITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

INTRO

- **THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ALSO SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ASPECTS OUTLINED IN THIS FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION WITH REGARD TO INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND STRUCTURES;**

INTRO

- **Establish or strengthen institutional frameworks which are cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary, with clear roles, responsibilities and functioning coordination mechanisms.**
- **Strengthen awareness of roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders and ensure the skills and capacities to carry out assigned functions are in place.**
- **Establish links and exchanges between different levels of action (local, intermediary, national, regional and international). World conference on Disaster Reduction (2005)**

STUDY AREA

- **Vhembe District Municipality (VDM) was established in 2000 and incorporates four local municipalities, namely Makhado, Thulamela, Musina and Mutale. VDM is situated in the Northern part of Limpopo Province of South Africa and amongst others shares borders with Zimbabwe in the North, Kruger National Park in the East, Botswana in the North West and the Capricorn District Municipality. VDM covers 21 407 square km of land and has a population of over 1, 1 million. (VDM, IDP, 2006).**

WHY IS CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE IMPORTANT IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA?

- **Disaster risk management in South Africa consists of a labyrinth of cross-cutting facets that requires the participation of a host of sectors and disciplines not only from within the spheres of government (national, provincial and local) but involving the private sector, civil society, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), research institutions and institutions of higher learning, to name but a few. Van Niekerk (2006)**

- **The importance of coordinating activities between the three spheres of government is to avoid wasteful competition and costly duplication. White Paper on Local Government (1998)**
- **The primary purpose of cooperative governance is therefore to maximise coordination and ensure uniformity in the implementation of the Act.**

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN DM

- **Disaster management is not the exclusive preserve of government. Fostering partnerships between government and the private sector is a prerequisite in order for sustainable and effective disaster management to take place. White Paper on Disaster Management, (1999)**
- **The Act stipulates in sections (5), (37) and (51) that Disaster Management Advisory Forums be established in all spheres of government to ensure effective participation of all role players.**

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DM

- **The Act stipulates that regional cooperation is essential for purposes of disaster risk management and the appropriate mechanisms must be initiated to establish a forum in which such cooperation can be achieved. Disasters are shared events; they cross national boundaries and affect whole regions.**

- **The need for enhancing regional and international cooperation was also acknowledged in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and noted that this could be achieved through the following;**
- **The transfer of knowledge, technology and expertise to enhance capacity building for risk reduction;**
- **The sharing of research findings, lesson learned and best practices;**
- **Financial assistance to reduce existing risks and to avoid the generation of new risks.**

WHY INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT?

- Disasters are complex phenomena that can only be addressed by deploying a wide range of knowledge, skills, methods and resources.
- Close collaboration between state and civil society actors is necessary because of the growing geographical complexity of vulnerability, hazards and risk. Wisner, Blaikie, Cannon & Davis (2006)
- a financial reason for coordination in disaster management is the fact that uncoordinated disaster management could be very costly.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **The study employed a qualitative case study approach and utilised both questionnaires and structured interviews.**
- **Panel sampling method was employed as an operational sampling method for interviewing 20 participants of the VDM District Disaster Management Advisory Forum.**
- **De Vos, Strydom, Fouche & Delport (2005) define a panel sample as a fixed panel of persons selected from the population of persons involved in a particular issue.**

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

- **Main challenges confronting the effective functioning of the Advisory forum;**
- **Lack of advocacy and awareness**
- **Lack of resources**
- **Departments represented by Junior officials without decision making powers**
- **Political interference**
- **Staff shortage in the VDM Disaster Management Centre**
- **Lack of capacity building initiatives**

- Lack of DM units in some LMs
- Poor understanding of DM by various role-players
- Key role players not involved in the forum

POSITIONS OF RESPONDENTS IN THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

- 50% middle managers
- 25% senior managers
- 13% Junior officials
- 6% Administrative officials
- 6% other (technical etc)

Classification of role-players

- Sector departments
- Local municipalities
- business sector
- traditional leader
- NGOs
- EMS
- Councillors
- Farmers organizations

Benefits of Advisory Forum

- Joint planning
- Information sharing
- Advisory services to municipalities
- Consultation
- Ensure integrated approach to DM
- Mechanism for public education
- Platform for coordination

Critical role-players

- Traditional leaders, represents a large constituency and involved in land allocation
- SAPS, EMS, FIRE dept & Traffic services as they are first responders
- Bussines sector

LESSONS FROM BEST PRACTICE

- Mumbai, Dhaka & Havana
- Clear articulation of roles and responsibilities for NGOs maximize involvement
- Strong focal points for DM
- Political leadership Mayors chairing DM Forums
- 3 % of annual budget dedicated to DM by all sector depts

RECCOMENDATIONS

- Improve funding
- Strong advocacy to ensure DM is on top of political agenda
- Increase human resources at DMC
- Establish a 24 hour communication centre as required by the Act to disseminate early warning and ensure coordination

CONCLUSION

- **DM is an inter-governmental function and all spheres of government must be involved**
- **Establishment of institutional capacity should be context driven as various role-players will be involved based on dynamics of each area**