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## Government still mired in 2022 climate disaster repair effort

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Flood relief monies and repairs are still mired in 2022's climate disasters while 2023 has been just as damaging, according to the provincial department of co-operative governance and traditional affairs.

The total flood damage bill is R1.4bn but only R320m (23%) was paid by national government.

Meanwhile, the 2022 flood repairs costing over R630m are barely halfway to completion. According to an official overview of flood incidents released to the Daily Dispatch recently by the provincial Cogta, efforts made by the provincial government to reprioritise R633m from their own funds

resulted in R219m of that monies being spent.

The allocations were:

- Transport R166m (R78m or 46% spent);
- Human settlements R87m (R44m, 51% spent);
- Health R67m (R34m, 51% spent), and;
- Education R315m (R63m, 20% spent).

The transport section of the report states: "To date, 73 roads valued at R78m have been completed", 19 roads were fixed by in-house teams at a cost of R5.2m.

The big picture shows that outstanding flood repair money (R1.4bn) sought for municipal projects is:

- Oliver Tambo R450m;
- Amathole R338m;

- Alfred Nzo R249m;

- Chris Hani R173m, and;

- Joe Gqabi R151m.

Business, it seems, is on the way.

Contractors will be pleased to know that "work packages have already been drafted and the service providers in all five affected districts have been issued with appointments for specific roads," the report states.

Meanwhile, the pressure has never been greater for the government to spend R307m allocated by the national public works department on building 19 World War 2 Bailey type metal bridges in ADM, Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo municipalities.

The SA Defence Force will do the work under management of

the national public works department under the banner of the Welisizwe ("helping the nation to cross") programme.

These municipalities are gearing up to appoint people to do the work via the extended public works programme, steel components are being constructed, procurement is under way for non-steel parts and construction equipment is being hired. But work will only start in the second week of January next year.

Projects being implemented at a cost of R67m by public works for the health department are emergency repairs to 48 hospitals and clinics and other facilities in five municipalities.

There are 11 contractors ap-

pointed. So far, R34m has been spent, with OR Tambo spending all its R12m and Alfred Nzo R595,000 of R1.2m. But ADM only spent R14m of its R46m and Chris Hani R194,000 of R3.5m.

In a revealing total, the education department has, over time, had 116 schools damaged by floods and other disasters requiring R199m to fix.

Of this, R63m in own funds has been spent. Public works has completed work on 51 out of 68 schools damaged at some stage, eight are under construction, two were cancelled and seven are still in procurement.

The further 48 schools were damaged in the "second disaster of 2021" and nine contractors appointed.