



## **EFF STATEMENT ON THE IMPACT OF THE FLOODS RAVAGING SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

Monday, 13 February 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is deeply concerned by the devastation caused by the ongoing torrent rains across several provinces in the country.

This rain has left millions of people in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and other provinces cut off from basic services, and without reliable forms of transportation, particularly in the most rural areas in these provinces.

We are equally concerned by the lacklustre response by the government to the crisis. The government has been unable to respond swiftly to assist affected communities, leaving children, the elderly and the disabled to fend for themselves. Already four poor kids from disadvantaged communities in the Nkomazi area of Ehlanzeni Region in Mpumalanga Province have already lost their innocent lives.

In the Chris Hani region in the Eastern Cape, the rain has destroyed whatever was left of the rural road network, making it impossible for people to access emergency services such as ambulances and the police, leaving many of our people vulnerable.

The best that the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma could offer was to call for people to be “cautious when travelling”, as if people have other choices other than to be cautious. She has not made any tangible intervention to provide emergency help to these communities, nor has she indicated any immediate plans to provide assistance to affected communities, leaving our people to look after themselves. This is the same approach the government took after the devastating floods that affected KwaZulu Natal and parts of the Eastern Cape and the North West in 2022, and to date, there are still people in KwaZulu Natal who have not been returned to permanent residence.

Despite numerous scientific warnings about the coming impacts of climate change, the South African government has not developed any disaster mitigation and adaptation plans to respond to these natural disasters, which are becoming more frequent lately.

A few weeks back, the Northern Cape was affected by severe heatwaves, which left a number of farmworkers dead. In this instance, the government was caught napping too, and was unable to intervene and force the inherently abusive farmers to give their workers a break when the heat became unbearable.

These torrent rains are becoming a norm in this country, and the government must urgently develop mechanisms for dealing with these rains. Further, the government must ensure that the rural road network in the affected communities is repaired and maintained on regular basis.

The EFF calls on all our members in these affected communities to provide whatever help they can to affected people, particularly children, the elderly and the disabled. We further call on the Minister of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs to work with affected municipalities to provide emergency assistance to affected communities.

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**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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