



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

CARIN VISSER

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27 (21) 403 2911

www.parliament.gov.za

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Hon. Nono Maloyi
Acting Premier
North West Provincial Government
Gorona Building
Mahikeng

Dear Hon. Acting Premier Nono Maloyi

RE: DROUGHT STRICKEN NORTHWEST REACHED DISASTER LEVEL.

The North West Province is currently plagued by drought conditions with a scorching heatwave. The 2023/2024 grain production plantings and dying pastures will create a developing risk on food shortages causing a complete loss of income and an imminent loss of jobs.

Concerns are raised about the risk of further livestock losses loss after 1,4 million hectares of pastures were destroyed by uncontained veld fires driven by high winds at the end of last year. Unfortunately, pastures did not restore to an extent that it will carry livestock through the winter and the harvest on the lands did not reach a potential high to be of fodder significance.

Kindly note that the current Northwest Fire Index Values March 2024 remains on Code Red. Furthermore, the Working on Fire Teams are not on standby due to the fire season being closed. The Northwest Province cannot sustain another destructive fire season with Working on Fire being closed, unequipped and under resourced and simultaneously a drought disaster where the crop of the 2023/24 harvest season is lost.

It is evident that the effects of the fire disaster and the current drought will negatively impact on food security and cause direct production losses of the current crop with the imminent possibility of job losses.

Considering the pending and intensifying crisis in the Northwest Province I request an urgent intervention by declaring the North West Province as drought stricken in terms of **SECTION 41 (1) OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT** by the powers vested in you to provide relief to the affected rural communities.

Considering drought relief interventions for the purposes of protecting food security and:

1. Recognize that special circumstances prevail to warrant the declaration of a state of national disaster and declare the drought crisis affecting the North West Province as a National State of Disaster, and
2. As may be required in terms of Section 27(2) of the Act, will make regulations or issue directions or authorise the issue of directions concerning the matters listed in Section 27 (3) of the Act, only to the extent that is necessary or required for the purpose of:
 - 2.1 Assisting and protecting all farming food producers.
 - 2.2 Providing relief to the dire circumstances.
 - 2.3 Protecting property of all farming food producers.
 - 2.4 Preventing or combating disruption.
 - 2.5 Dealing with destructive or other effects of disaster.
 - 2.6 Communicating with organised agricultural organizations.

Yours sincerely,



Carin Visser, MP

DA NCOP: North West Permanent Delegate

SC on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy

carinvisser@sannieshof.com

083 442 5409.