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This was decided at the ordinary sitting of the provincial cabinet in Pietermaritzburg today.

Incidents of storms and flash floods hit the province last weekend affecting mainly eThekweni Metro, iLembe District and some parts of King Cetshwayo and Umgungundlovu Districts. Five people have died as a result of drowning with one reported to have been electrocuted. Three people are reported missing presumably after being washed away by over-flowing rivers. The MEC for COGTA Nomusa Dube-Ncube and the eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede have already visited some of the affected areas in KwaMashu and Amaoti.

"All MECs are urged to participate in the interventions that will be rolled out at the weekend. But while we sympathize with the affected communities, we should continue to educate people about where they should build or not build their houses," said the Leader of Government Business Sihle Zikalala who chaired the meeting.

The Executive Council also received and supported a report on the Radical Agrarian Socio Economic Transformation (RASET) Implementation Framework. The framework will assist in the roll out of the RASET programme which seeks to mainstream historically disadvantaged individuals in their participation in production, processing and distribution of food within food value chains. RASET is a programme adopted by the provincial government and is aimed at solving rural and township socio-economic problems by empowering black Africans in the creation of wealth, jobs, redress economic imbalances and thus eradicate poverty.

The Executive Council also supported a progress report on land invasion. This follows the unsuccessful court bid by Abahlali Basemjondolo on behalf of illegal land occupiers at Cato Crest where this organization was trying to block the dismantling of shacks. The Cabinet applauded the court decision to reject the application by Abahlali Basemjondolo and called for immediate action to be taken by authorities against any future land invasion wherever this occurred.

The Executive Council also expressed support for the family of the late Buhle Bhengu of Umlazi who died recently. The family was expected to leave the country last night for the repatriation of Buhle's remains from the Bahamas.

The Executive Council also condemned the attack on the premises of COGTA in Mayville, Durban by unknown persons.

A report on the activities of the Multi-Party Political Intervention in Vryheid was also presented to the Executive Council by Community Safety and Liaison MEC Mxolisi Kaunda. This follows recent disturbances at Bhekuzulu location as a result of a community protest in the area. Kaunda also reported police had had to intervene after reports of violent killings of six people last weekend at Emadlangeni and Imbali. The Cabinet applauded the work of the police in all these incidents.

Issued on behalf of the Director-General Dr NO. Mkhize

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