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ACT No. 2 of 1997

Disaster Management Act 1997

An Act to establish the Disaster Management Authority; to regulate its powers and functions and to make provision with respect to emergencies arising out of disasters including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures for the protection of life and property from the effects of disasters; and to vest responsibility for disaster management jointly and separately with the Disaster Management Authority and the District Secretaries; and for related matters.

Enacted by the Parliament of Lesotho

Part I

Preliminary

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Disaster Management Act, 1997 and it shall come into operation on the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

"appointed member" means a member of the Board appointed by the Minister;

"Authority" means the Disaster management Authority established under section 11 of this Act;

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Disaster Management Authority established under section 14 of this Act;

"Chief Executive" means the Chief Executive of the Disaster Management Authority appointed under section 21 of this Act;

"disaster" means a progressive or sudden, widespread or localised, natural or man-made event including not only prevalent drought but also heavy snowfalls, severe frosts, hailstorms, tornadoes, landslides, mudslides, floods, serious widespread fires and major air or road traffic accidents;

"disaster management" means a continuous and dynamic multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning which seeks, by the systematic study and analysis of disasters, to improve measures relating to prevention, mitigation, emergency preparedness, response and post-disaster recovery;

"emergency" means any occasion, instance or event for which, in the determination of the Prime Minister, exceptional assistance from the government is needed to supplement national, district, community or individual actions to save lives, protect property and public health and safety or to prevent or mitigate the threat of a catastrophe or extreme hazard in any part of Lesotho;

"fund" means the Disaster management Fund referred to in section 34 of this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for the administration of this Act;

"mitigation" means measures aimed at reducing the impact of a natural or man-made disaster on the nation or the community;

"preparedness" means measures including the preparation of viable disaster relief plans, maintenance of resources and training of personnel undertaken by the government, non-governmental organisations, communities and individuals to mobilise, organise and provide relief measures required to deal with an impending or current disaster;

"prevention" means measures aimed at stopping a disaster from occurring or preventing such an occurrence having harmful effects on communities;

"recovery" means a process by which people or communities are assisted to return to their proper level of livelihood following a disaster;

"Regulations" means regulations made under section 48 of this Act;

"response" means measures undertaken immediately prior to or during a disaster-induced emergency in order to bring relief to people, communities or enterprises affected by the disaster;

"Task Force" means the National Disaster Relief Force established under section 8 of this Act.

Part II

Declaration of State of Disaster

Declaration of state of disaster

3. (1) If at any time it appears to the Prime Minister, on the advice of the Board, that any disaster in any area is of such a nature and extent that exceptional measures are necessary to assist and protect the public of such area or that circumstances are likely to arise making such measures necessary, he may declare that with effect from a date specified by him in such declaration, a state of disaster exists within the area defined in such declaration and such declaration shall be published in the Gazette.
- (2) The declaration of a state of disaster shall remain in force for a specific period as set out in the declaration and may be extended accordingly.

Emergency powers

4. In addition to the general emergency powers set out in the Emergency Powers Order 1988¹ the Minister shall, during a state of disaster, have the following powers:-
 - (a) to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of government business or the orders, rules or regulations of any government agency, if compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster-induced emergency;
 - (b) to utilise all available resources of the Government including stores, equipment vehicles and facilities as reasonably necessary to cope with an emergency;
 - (c) to transfer personnel or functions of Government departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services;
 - (d) to implement the relevant provisions of the National Disaster Management Plan to meet emergency requirements;
 - (e) to mobilise strategic reserves of commodities and equipment and other resources;
 - (f) to have access to and utilisation of the Lesotho Defence Force and Royal Lesotho Mounted Police personnel, vehicles, equipment and radio communications, as well as military aircraft;
 - (g) to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any disaster-stricken or threatened area if it is deemed that such an action is necessary for the preservation of life and move them to temporary shelter elsewhere where adequate facilities exist for their livelihood;
 - (h) to prescribe appropriate routes, modes of transportation and destination in connection with evacuation;

- (i) to control in-coming and out-going traffic to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein, making provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;
- (j) to suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms and explosives;
- (k) to step up the provision of early warning and other information required for preparing for or dealing with a disaster;
- (l) to requisition buildings, vehicles and equipment on the charge of centres and local government institutions needed for emergency purposes;
- (m) to take all necessary measures in order to prevent, alleviate, control and minimise the effects of disasters;
- (n) to make post-disaster reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery plans;
- (o) to provide assistance to District Secretaries and District Disaster Management Team;
- (p) to delegate appropriate powers and responsibilities to District Secretaries and monitor their effective implementation;
- (q) to improve and enforce restrictions on the supply and usage of water in circumstances of severe prolonged droughts; and
- (r) to prepare an appeal for donor assistance and to receive, accept and account for any donations that may be given for the functions of the Authority.

PART III

Disaster Management

Disaster Management Plan

5. (1) The Authority shall prepare a National Disaster Management Plan which the Minister shall submit to the Cabinet for approval. The plan shall cover requirements for disaster management including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures.
- (2) The National Disaster Management Plan shall, as far as possible, be integrated with National Development Plans and shall be supported by a Disaster Management Manual containing detailed responsibilities and procedures on disaster management.
- (3) The National Disaster Management Plan and the Disaster Management Manual shall be reviewed and updated by the Chief Executive once a year or as necessary, particularly at the end of a state of disaster, and the Chief Executive shall recommend any amendments to the Board which shall then propose the amendments to the Cabinet for approval.
- (4) The Chief Executive shall prepare embryo Disaster Relief Plans at national level and each District Secretary shall prepare such plans for the district concerned.
- (5) The Lesotho Defence Force and the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police shall prepare their own plans to provide assistance to the civil authorities or the civilian population. These plans shall be based on the National Disaster Management Plan and shall be incorporated in the plan referred to in

subsection (1) as appropriate.

Disaster Relief Plans

6. Upon the declaration of a state of disaster:-
 - (a) the Chief Executive shall prepare an appropriate National Disaster Relief Plan and, following its agreement by the Board and its approval by the Cabinet, shall implement and maintain that plan;
 - (b) each District Secretary shall prepare an appropriate District Disaster Relief Plan for the district concerned and, following its approval by the Chief Executive, shall implement and maintain that plan.

Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan

7. During a state of disaster, the Chief Executive shall prepare a Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan and, following its agreement by the Board and its approval by the Cabinet, shall implement and maintain that plan at national and district level as appropriate.

Part IV

National Disaster Relief Task Force

Establishment of National Disaster Relief Task Force

8. (1) Upon the declaration of a state of disaster and for its duration, the Prime Minister shall establish a National Disaster Relief Task Force which shall consist of Ministers directly involved with that disaster.
- (2) The Prime Minister shall cause the membership of the Task Force to be published in the Gazette.

Functions of the Task Force

9. The Task Force shall:-
 - (a) provide policy guidelines to the Authority;
 - (b) mobilise funds, manpower and other resources required to implement the National Disaster Relief Plan;
 - (c) supervise and monitor National and District Disaster Relief Plans;
 - (d) initiate the creation of appropriate institutional structures to support the Disaster Relief Plans;
 - (e) approve requests for donor assistance.

Meetings of the Task Force

10. (1) The Task Force shall meet as often as its business requires and especially so during a state of disaster.
- (2) The Task Force may regulate its own procedure at its meetings.

Part V

Disaster Management Authority

Establishment of Disaster Management Authority

11. (1) There is established a Disaster Management Authority which shall consist of a Chief Executive, a Deputy Chief Executive and such other officers as may be appointed.
- (2) The Authority shall be a public office, and accordingly, the laws governing the Public Service shall apply to the Authority and its officers.
- (3) Any other staff required for the purpose of the Authority shall be temporarily employed staff or serving members of the Lesotho Defence Force, the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police or volunteers.

Working groups

12. (1) The Authority shall have the following 6 permanently established working groups:-
 - (a) the Executive Group;
 - (b) the Training Group;
 - (c) the Water and Sanitation Group;
 - (d) the Health and Nutrition Group;
 - (e) the Food and Logistics Group; and
 - (f) the Agriculture Group.
- (2) The working groups shall consist of senior officials of the Authority and senior representatives of central government ministries and units as well as members from the Lesotho Defence Force, Royal Lesotho Mounted Police, Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and other agencies directly involved with disaster management.
- (3) The Minister shall appoint the members of the working groups and cause their membership to be published in the Gazette.
- (4) The working groups shall meet at more frequent intervals during an emergency than in times of non-emergency, but at least 4 times in each financial year.
- (5) The terms of reference and composition of the working groups shall be as provided in the Regulations.

Functions of the Authority

13. The Authority shall:-

- (a) act as the central planning, coordinating and monitoring institution for disaster management and post-disaster recovery;
- (b) brief the Board and the National Disaster Relief Task Force from time to time on progress and major problems in disaster management;
- (c) warn the public of an approaching disaster and predict its effects on the country;
- (d) maintain a data collection and dissemination system, and national strategic reserves of essential commodities and equipment for immediate disaster relief;
- (e) formulate disaster mitigation, preparedness and response strategies and action plans to meet all foreseeable requirements in consultation with central and local government, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies;
- (f) prepare and update the National Disaster Management Plan and the supporting Disaster Management Manual;
- (g) hold in readiness a series of National Disaster Relief Plans to meet any likely disaster;
- (h) develop and sustain viable, effective structures and capacities at central government level and within districts in case of a disaster;
- (i) create and maintain a national cadre of trained and qualified personnel for disaster management;
- (j) arrange external training for the staff of government, non-governmental organisations and other local agencies which are directly involved with disaster management;
- (k) promote general education on disaster management, emergency plans and relief measures;
- (l) promote public awareness campaigns on disaster at national, district and community levels;
- (m) conduct public relations and media briefing on disaster related programmes, progress and problems;
- (n) take all necessary measures in order to prevent, alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of disasters;
- (o) receive, accept and account for any donations that may be given for the functions of the Authority;
- (p) make post-disaster reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery plans;
- (q) provide assistance to District Secretaries and District Disaster Management Teams; and
- (r) delegate appropriate powers and responsibilities to District Secretaries and monitor their effective implementation.

The Board

14. (1) The Authority shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors which shall consist of:-
- (a) the following member ex-officio-
 - (i) the Government Secretary who shall be Chairman;
 - (ii) the Principal Secretary (Economics), Prime Minister's office;
 - (iii) the Principal Secretary responsible for planning;
 - (iv) the Principal Secretary responsible for finance;
 - (v) the Principal Secretary responsible for agriculture;
 - (vi) the Principal Secretary responsible for defence;
 - (vii) the Principal Secretary responsible for health and social welfare;
 - (viii) the Principal Secretary responsible for home affairs;
 - (ix) the Principal Secretary responsible for information and broadcasting;
 - (x) the Principal Secretary responsible for local government;
 - (xi) the Principal Secretary responsible for natural resources; and
 - (xii) the Chief Executive who shall be Secretary;
 - (b) the following members to be appointed by the Minister:-
 - (i) 3 representatives of non-governmental organisations on the recommendation of non-governmental organisations themselves; and
 - (ii) 2 representatives of the private sector who have wide knowledge and experience of disaster management.
- (2) The Minister shall cause notice of the composition of the Board to be published in the Gazette.

Functions of the Board

15. The Board shall:-
- (a) advise the Minister on disaster management policy;
 - (b) advise the Prime Minister, through the Minister, on the requirements for and the timing of a declaration of a disaster-induced emergency in accordance with the Constitution and to declare the country, any district or part thereof to be a disaster area; and
 - (c) ensure that funds are available to meet disaster related and management expenditures.

Termination of appointment

16. The Minister shall terminate the appointment of an appointed member if that member:-

- (a) has been declared insolvent or has made an arrangement with his creditors;
- (b) is incapacitated by physical or mental illness;
- (c) has been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;
- (d) is otherwise unable or is, in the opinion of the Minister, unfit to discharge the functions of a member or is unsuitable to continue as a member; or
- (e) has been absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the board without the permission of the Chairman.

Tenure of office

- 17.
- (1) Every appointed member of the Board shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for 2 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
 - (2) Every ex-officio member of the Board shall hold office so long as he holds the post by virtue of which he was so appointed.
 - (3) An appointed member of the Board may resign his office of appointment by writing under his hand addressed to the Minister.
 - (4) If a member of the Board is for any reason unable to exercise the powers or perform the duties of his office, the Minister may, subject to section 14 appoint another person to hold his office during the absence or incapacity of that member.

Meetings of the Board

- 18.
- (1) The Board shall meet as often as the business of the Authority may require, but in any case, not less than 4 times in each financial year.
 - (2) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board.
 - (3) Any question before the Board at a meeting shall be decided by the majority of votes of the members present and voting.
 - (4) The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be 8 members.
 - (5) A presiding member shall have a deliberative vote and in the event of an equality of votes, he shall have a casting vote.
 - (6) The Board may co-opt any person to attend any meeting of the Board for the purpose of assisting or advising the Board, but such co-opted person shall not vote.
 - (7) A special meeting of the Board may be called by the Chairman.
 - (8) The Secretary shall prepare the agenda and call all meetings for which 14 days notice shall be given, except for the special meeting under subsection (7).
 - (9) The validity of any act or proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy among the members or by any defect subsequently discovered in the appointment of a member or by reason that some person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

- (10) The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of meetings, approved by the Chairman, as soon as possible after each meeting and before the next meeting and the Chairman of the Board shall confirm the minutes of each meeting at a subsequent meeting.
- (11) Subject to this Act, the Board may make provision for the following:
 - (a) the proper conduct of business of meetings of the Board;
 - (b) the management and administration of the Authority generally;
- (12) Subject to this section, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

Expenses and allowances

19. An appointed member of the Board shall be paid such expenses and allowances as the Board may recommend and the Minister may determine with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for finance.

Disclosure of interest

20. (1) Where a member of the Board is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a transaction or project of the Authority, he shall disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Board; the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board and the member shall not take part in any deliberations or decision of the Board with respect to that transaction or project.
- (2) A member of the Board who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding M10,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years and shall, upon conviction, cease to be a member of the Board.

Chief Executive

21. (1) There shall be a Chief Executive of the Authority appointed by the Public Service Commission.
- (2) The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the execution of the policy of the Authority and the transaction of its day-to-day business and, without derogating from the generality of this section, he shall also:-
 - (a) act, during an emergency, as the National Relief Coordinator;
 - (b) maintain an adequate national disaster management structure and capacity;
 - (c) formulate disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery strategies, disaster management plans and disaster relief plans to meet all foreseeable requirements in consultation with other relevant institutions;
 - (d) direct, coordinate, supervise and monitor the work of the Director of the Food Management Unit, the Director of the Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office and District Secretaries in respect of their disaster management, disaster relief and post-disaster roles; and
 - (e) carry out any other functions as may be imposed upon him by the Authority, the Board or the Minister.

Deputy Chief Executive

22. There shall be a Deputy Chief Executive who shall act as Chief Executive during the absence or incapacity of the Chief Executive and, during an emergency, shall act as the Deputy National Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Part VI

District and Village Disaster Management Teams

District Disaster Management Team

23. (1) Each district shall establish a District Disaster Management Team whose members shall be appointed by the District Secretary.
- (2) The District Disaster Management Team shall consist of:-
- (a) the District Secretary who shall be Chairman;
 - (b) the District Engineer (Urban and Rural Water Supply);
 - (c) the District Medical Officer;
 - (d) the District Agriculture Officer;
 - (e) the District Rural Development Officer;
 - (f) the Manager of the District Food Management Unit Stores;
 - (g) the District Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinator;
 - (h) the District Supplementary Feeding Coordinator;
 - (i) a representative of the Lesotho Defence Force;
 - (j) a representative of the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police;
 - (k) 2 representatives of churches;
 - (l) 2 representatives of schools;
 - (m) the Chairperson, District Development Council;
 - (n) the Principal Chief; and
 - (o) the District Disaster Management Officer who shall be Secretary.
- (3) A District Disaster Management Team may co-opt any person but that person shall not vote at its meetings.
- (4) The District Disaster Management Team shall work in conjunction with the District Development Council in order to:-
- (a) keep under review all multi-sectoral disaster management plans;
 - (b) monitor all multi-sectoral disaster relief and post-disaster recovery activities carried out in the district.

- (5) The District Disaster Management Team shall meet as often as its business requires and at least 12 times in a year.

Functions of a District Disaster Management Team

24. A District Disaster Management Team shall:-
- (a) assist the District Secretary in discharging responsibilities relating to disaster management in the district concerned;
 - (b) assess particular hazards facing the district;
 - (c) liaise and cooperate with the Authority in ensuring that development plans for the district take into account hazards facing or likely to face the district;
 - (d) prepare emergency relief plans for the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Authority and supervise the state of preparedness for emergencies in the district.
 - (e) coordinate stockpiling of relief supplies for relief operations in the district;
 - (f) receive and decide on all applications for relief assistance in the district;
 - (g) promote public awareness of disasters and measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate them in the district; and
 - (h) organise training programmes for relief workers to practice the implementation of District Disaster Relief Plans.

Powers of a District Disaster Management Team

25. A District Disaster Management Team shall have all necessary powers for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act.

Village Disaster Management Team

26. (1) Each community or a cluster of communities in a district shall establish a Village Disaster Management Team.
- (2) The composition of a Village Disaster Management Team shall be jointly determined by the District Secretary and the local Village Development Council taking into consideration the guidelines provided in the National Disaster management Plan and the Disaster Management Manual referred to in section 5 of this Act.
- (3) The functions of the Village Disaster Management Team shall be laid down in the by-laws made by the District Secretary in accordance with section 49 of this Act.

Volunteers

27. (1) Any person, private enterprise, non-governmental organisation, charitable or religious organisation may, by written application to the District Secretary of the district concerned, volunteer to:-
- (a) serve as a member of a District or Village Disaster Management Team established in terms of sections 23 and 26 of this Act.

- (b) provide or assist in the provisions of any disaster management service within any area;
 - (c) perform within any area any function connected with disaster management as agreed upon by the District or Village Disaster Management Teams.
- (2) The District Secretary may, after reviewing the application, cause the name of the volunteer to be entered in the register kept under the terms of subsection (5).
 - (3) A volunteer may resign upon giving 30 days' notice to the District Secretary.
 - (4) A volunteer shall comply with every reasonable order or instruction given to him by the District Secretary for the area concerned or by any person authorized thereto by the District Secretary.
 - (5) Every District Secretary shall maintain a register of all volunteers in the area within which he may exercise his powers.

District Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

- 28. The District Secretary of each district shall, during an emergency, act as the District Disaster Relief Coordinator for the district for which he has been appointed.

Powers and duties of a District Secretary

- 29. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a District Secretary shall:-
 - (a) take any measures as, in his opinion, are necessary to deal with a state of a disaster in the district concerned:

Provided that such measures shall not deprive any person of his life or personal liberty;
 - (b) establish, maintain and control every disaster management organisation of every organisation involved with disaster management in the district;
 - (c) provide, operate and coordinate all disaster management services and activities within the district; and
 - (d) report and be responsible to the Chief Executive on the progress and problems in respect of disaster management, disaster relief and post-disaster roles within the district as frequently as the Chief Executive may stipulate.
- (2) During an emergency the District Secretary shall set up a district operations room for providing a working base for the District Disaster Management Team for efficient relief operations within the district.
- (3) The District Secretary shall exercise his powers in terms of this Act in cooperation with the Authority, the Lesotho Defence Force and the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police within the district.

Orders

- 30. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a District Secretary may, in the district for which he is responsible, by order in writing, direct any person:-
 - (a) to supply him with any relevant information concerning the existence and availability of any service, facility or asset whatsoever which could be used for or in connection with

- disaster management and which is under the control or in the possession of such person;
- (b) to maintain such specified stocks of fuel, food, water or medical supplies, and equipment for use during a disaster-induced emergency as he may reasonably be expected to maintain; and
 - (c) to perform any work or render any disaster management service which, as a result of a disaster, is necessary for the purpose of dealing with the situation.
- (2) No order shall be given in terms of:
- (a) sub-section (1)(a) to a person in the employment of the government requiring such person to supply information acquired by him the course of his duty as such an employee;
 - (b) sub-section (1)(b) requiring the government to maintain any stocks referred to in that paragraph.
- (3) A person aggrieved by an order given in terms of subsection (1) may appeal in writing against it to the Minister.
- (4) In any appeal in terms of subsection (3), the Minister may, after inviting the District Secretary concerned to submit written representations in the matter and considering any representations so submitted, confirm, vary or set aside the order appealed against or give such other directions in the matter as he thinks appropriate.

Delegation of powers of responsibilities

31. (1) A District Secretary in the capacity of a District Disaster Relief Co-ordinator or otherwise may, with approval of the Chief Executive, delegate all or any of his powers or responsibilities to a member of the District Disaster Management Team.
- (2) The delegation of any power by a District Secretary in the capacity of a District Disaster Relief Coordinator in terms of subsection (1) shall not divest him of that power or responsibility, and he may at any time revoke or amend any order given by any member of the District Disaster Management Team in the exercise of that power or responsibility, save that, where the District Secretary has been directed by the Chief Executive to delegate any powers or responsibilities to a member or members of the District Disaster Management Team, he shall not revoke or amend an order given by any such team except with the consent of the Chief Executive.

District Disaster Management Team

32. There shall be a District Disaster Management Officer in each district who shall be appointed by the Public Service Commission and who shall report and be responsible directly to the District Secretary.

Functions of District Disaster Management Officer

33. The District Disaster Management Officer shall provide a working line between the District Secretary, the District Disaster Management Team the Village Disaster Management Teams in the district and the Authority and shall assist the District Secretary acting as the District Disaster Relief Coordinator or in any other role in relation to:-
- (a) district and community disaster management, disaster relief and post-disaster recovery tasks;
 - (b) preparation of reports, undertaking local training and conducting public awareness campaigns; and

- (c) provision of input to national plans for managing disasters.

Part VII

Finances

Fund

34. (1) The Minister responsible for finance shall establish a fund to be known as the Disaster Management Fund.
- (2) The Accountant General shall maintain a separate account of the fund in which he shall record the receipts and disbursements referred to in sections 35 and 36.
- (3) The Chief Executive shall maintain accounts in which he shall record receipts into the fund and disbursements from the fund.
- (4) In maintaining the accounts referred to in subsection (3) the Chief Executive shall observe the provisions of the Financial Regulations and other applicable laws governing the receipt, control and disbursement of public funds.

Receipts

35. (1) There shall be paid into the fund:-
- (a) moneys donated from any source for the purpose of disaster management;
- (b) moneys appropriated by government for this purpose; and
- (c) interest arising out of any investment of the fund.

Disbursements

36. There shall be paid out of the fund:-
- (a) moneys required for the discharge of the liabilities of the Authority;
- (b) moneys required to defray expenses incurred by the Authority in the exercise and discharge of its functions; and
- (c) any other expenses as may be approved by the Minister.

Donations

37. (1) Donations shall be taken on charge and accounted for in accordance with stores regulations and other applicable regulations governing the receipt, issue and control of public stores, equipment, plants, vehicles, machinery, buildings and related matters.
- (2) Donations shall, wherever possible, be only used for the purpose for which they have been donated, however, where no conditions are attached, they shall be used for the purposes of implementing disaster management programmes.

Financial year

38. The financial year of the Authority shall be the period from the first day of April to the thirty first day of

March of the succeeding year, both days inclusive.

Annual budget

39. The Chief Executive shall prepare and present to the Board for approval, in advance of each financial year, a budget for that year, indicating anticipated revenues, allocation of the revenues and expenditures.

Audit

40. (1) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Auditor-General or auditors appointed by him.
- (2) The auditors shall complete their audit of accounts of the Authority within three months of the end of each financial year and shall include in the report assessments relating to the effectiveness and the administration of the Authority.
- (3) The Board shall submit the auditors' report with comments to the Minister within one month from the date of its completion.

Reports

41. (1) As soon as possible after the close of the financial year, but not later than three months thereafter, the Board shall present to the Minister an annual report and audited accounts of the Authority comprising:-
- (a) a report on the activities of the Authority during the preceding year;
- (b) a balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the Authority at the close of the financial year;
- (c) a statement showing the receipt and disposal of any stores donated or purchased during the year.
- (2) A copy of the annual report and audited accounts shall be submitted by the Minister to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Transfer

42. Upon the establishment of the fund referred to in section 34, all monies in the National Disaster Relief Fund established by the Finance (National Drought Disaster Relief Fund) Notice 1995, shall be transferred to that fund.

Part VIII

Miscellaneous

Government assistance

43. (1) Where a state of disaster has in terms of section 3 been declared to exist in any area of Lesotho and the Minister considers that the District for that area is unable to provide adequate disaster management services to deal with the disaster, the Minister may after consultation with the District Secretary concerned:-
- (a) by notice published in such manner as he thinks fit:-

- (i) to such extent and for such purposes as he may specify in the notice, take over any power or duty conferred upon the District Secretary in terms on this Act for the area concerned; and
- (ii) confer or impose upon any person or authority, any power or duty conferred or imposed upon a District Disaster Relief Coordinator or other person by or in terms of this Act:

Provided that no such notice has been made in any manner other than by publication in the Gazette;

- (b) direct any person employed by the government to render such assistance as the Minister may direct to any District Disaster Relief Coordinator or other person upon whom a power or duty is conferred by or under this Act;

Provided that the Minister shall not confer or impose any such power or duty upon or give such direction to:-

- (i) a police officer, without the consent of the Commissioner of police; or
- (ii) a member of the Lesotho Defence Force, without the consent of the commander of the branch of the Lesotho Defence Force; or
- (iii) a prison officer, without the consent of the Director of Prisons; or
- (iv) an employee of government, without the consent of the Minister responsible for the Ministry in which he is employed.

- (2) The Minister may direct any person employed by the government:-

- (a) to evaluate from time to time the preparedness of district authorities within Lesotho in matters relating to disaster management and to report thereon to the Minister;
- (b) to advise district authorities in matters relating to disaster management;
- (c) in collaboration with the District Secretary concerned, to activate disaster management services within any area and to coordinate all activities related to disaster management therein:

Provided that the Minister shall not give any direction in terms of this subsection to:-

- (i) a police officer, without the consent of the Commissioner of Police; or
- (ii) member of the Lesotho Defence Force without the consent of the commander of the branch of the Lesotho Defence Force concerned; or
- (iii) a prison officer, without the consent of the Director of Prisons; or
- (iv) an employee of government without the consent of the minister responsible for the ministry in which he is employed.

Reimbursement and indemnification

44. The District Secretary shall reimburse and indemnify every volunteer and other person employed in a disaster management organisation established and maintained by him for any reasonable expense or liability incurred by such volunteer or other person as a result of:-
- (a) carrying out any order or performing any disaster management service in terms of this Act; or
 - (b) making available for the purpose of disaster management any equipment, land, building or other property.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

45. (1) The provisions of any enactment relating to the disability payment of compensation on the death of or injury to officers in the Public Service shall, mutatis mutandis, apply in relation to a volunteer or any other person performing any duty in terms of this Act as though he was an officer in the Public Service.
- (2) Any compensation payable in terms of subsection (1) shall be paid from the Fund, which is hereby appropriated for the purpose.

Indemnity

46. Without prejudice to any defence or limitation which may be available in terms of any law, but subject to the provisions of this Act, no claim shall be made and no set-off shall operate against:-
- (a) the Minister;
 - (b) the members of the Board;
 - (c) the officials of the Disaster Management Authority;
 - (d) a District Secretary;
 - (e) a volunteer; and
 - (f) any person assigned duties by the Chief Executive or the District Secretary in terms of this Act,

in respect of loss or injury caused by or in the course of the exercise or performance or the purported exercise of any power conferred or duty imposed by this Act or an omission to exercise any such power or perform any such duty, unless the act or omission in question was unreasonable or negligent or was done in bad faith.

Offence and penalty

47. Any person who, without lawful excuse, fails to comply with an order or instruction given in terms of this Act, commits an offence and, on conviction, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding M10,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years or both.

Regulations

48. The Minister may make the Regulations for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

By-laws

49. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a District Secretary within or outside his capacity of a District Disaster

Relief Coordinator may make by-laws for carrying out the functions related to any disaster management activity in the district to which he is nominated.

Intent and purpose

50. If in the opinion of the Minister, through any error, accident or omission, anything required to be done in terms of this Act is omitted to be done or is not done in the manner or within the time determined therein, the Minister may order all such steps to be taken as in his opinion may be necessary to rectify such error, accident or omission or he may validate anything which may have been irregularly done so that the intent and purpose of this Act shall be given effect to.

Repeals

51. The following Regulations are repealed:-

- (a) the National Disaster Relief Fund Regulations, 1977; and
- (b) the Finance (National Disaster Relief Fund) Regulations, 1995.

Note:

1. Order No. 4 of 1988.
2. Legal Notice No. 106 of 1977.
3. Legal Notice No. 6 of 1977.
4. Legal Notice No. 107 of 1995.

Government Notice No. 12 of 1997

Explanatory Memorandum to the Disaster Management Bill 1997

**Introduced into the National Assembly on the 24th June, 1996
(Circulated by authority of the Rt. Hon.
The Prime Minister and Minister responsible
for Disaster Management, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle)**

Outline

Introduction

1. The Disaster Management Bill, 1996 makes provisions for disaster management in the Kingdom of Lesotho. As such it supports the National Disaster Management plan and, in this respect, will assist the introduction, enforcement and maintenance of the Plan.
2. The Disaster Management Bill, 1996, when it is enacted in Parliament, will be complemented by a Legal Notice setting out Disaster Management Regulations. These enabling Regulations will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and thus may later be amended administratively as necessary.

Long Title of the Bill

3. An Act to establish the Disaster Management Authority; to regulate its powers and functions and to make provision with respect to emergencies arising out of disasters including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures for the protection of life and property from the effects of disasters; and to vest responsibility for disaster management jointly and separately with the Disaster Management Authority and the District Secretary and for related matters.

Notes on Clauses

Short title and commencement

4. Clause 1 states that the Disaster Management Act, 1996, once passed by Parliament, will be operative from the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Interpretation of the Bill

5. Clause 2 defines key terms commonly used in the Bill.

Declaration of State of Disaster

6. Clause 3 describes the Prime Minister's powers, under section 232 of the Constitution, to make such a declaration and also mentions the duration of a state of disaster-induced emergency.

Emergency Powers

7. Clause 4 gives the Minister additional powers to those contained in the Emergency Powers Order, 1988. These additional powers are:-
 - a. To suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of government business or the orders, rules or regulations of any government agency, if compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster-induced emergency;

- b. To utilise all available resource of the Government including stores, equipment, vehicles and facilities as reasonably to cope with an emergency.
- c. To transfer personnel or functions of government departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services.
- d. To implement the relevant provisions of the National Disaster Management Plan to meet emergency requirements.
- e. To mobilise strategic reserves of commodities and equipment and other resources.
- f. To have access to and utilisation of Lesotho Defence Force and Royal Lesotho Mounted police personnel, vehicles, equipment and radio communications, as well as military aircraft.
- g. To direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any disaster-stricken or threatened area if it is deemed that such an action is necessary for the preservation of life, and move them to temporary shelter elsewhere where adequate facilities exist for their livelihood.
- h. To prescribe appropriate routes, modes of transportation, and destination in connection with evacuation.
- i. To control in-coming and out-going traffic to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein, making provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing.
- j. To suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms and explosives.
- k. To step up the provision of early warning and other information required for preparing for or dealing with disaster.
- l. To requisition publicly-owned buildings, vehicles and equipment on the charge of central and local government institutions needed for emergency purposes.
- m. To take all necessary measures in order to prevent, alleviate, contain and minimise the effect of disasters.
- n. To make post-disaster reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery plans.
- o. To provide assistance to District Secretaries and Disaster Management Teams.
- p. to delegate appropriate powers and responsibilities to District Secretaries and monitor their effective implementation.
- q. To impose and enforce restrictions on the supply and usage of water in circumstances of severe, prolonged drought.
- r. To prepare an appeal for donor assistance and to account for any donations that may be given for the functions of the Authority.

Disaster Management plan

8. Clause 5 outlines the content of the Disaster Management plan, the requirement to integrate this Plan with national Development Plans and the need for a supporting Disaster Management Manual. It also states that the

Chief Executive of the DMA and District Secretaries are required to prepare embryo National and District Disaster Relief Plans. It further explains that the disaster-related plans of the Lesotho Defence Force and the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police are based on and are incorporated in the National Disaster Management Plan as appropriate.

Disaster Relief Plans

9. Clause 6 explains the need for the DMA and District Secretaries to complete the already existing embryo Disaster Relief Plans when a state of disaster is declared. The National Relief Plan must be approved by Cabinet, then implemented and maintained by the DMA. The Chief Executive of the DMA approves District Disaster Relief Plans, which each District Secretary then implements and maintains.

Post-Disaster Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan

10. Clause 7 places a duty on the Chief Executive of the DMA to prepare a post-disaster National Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan which must be approved by Cabinet, then implemented by the DMA and maintained for as long as necessary at national and district levels as appropriate.

Establishment of the National Disaster Relief Task Force (DRTF)

11. Clause 8 empowers the Prime Minister to set up a Ministerial Task Force for the duration of a disaster and the ministerial membership, decided by the Prime Minister, will be published in the Gazette. The Task Force will consist of those Ministers directly involved with a particular disaster.

Functions of the DRFT

12. Clause 9 lists the Task Force's emergency functions, namely:
- a. To provide policy guidelines to the DMA.
 - b. To mobilise funds, manpower and other resources required to implement the National Disaster Relief Plan.
 - c. To supervise and monitor National and District Disaster Relief Plans.
 - d. To initiate the creation of appropriate institutional structures to support the Disaster Relief Plans.
 - e. To approve requests for donor assistance.

Meetings of the DRFT

13. Clause 10 authorised the Task Force to meet when necessary and to regulate its own regular meeting during a state of disaster.

Establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (DMA)

14. Clause 11 sets up the DMA and authorises the appointment of its officers, namely a Chief Executive, deputy Chief Executive, other appointed officers from the Public Service, possibly LDF and RLMP officers, and possibly volunteers on its staff.

Working Groups

15. Clause 12 lists the DMA's six standing Working Groups composed of governmental and non-governmental representatives, as well as DMA officers. Their terms of reference and composition are contained in the supporting Regulations as there may be a need to amend them administratively from time-to-time. The DMA's Working groups are:

- a. The Executive Group.
- b. The Training Group.
- c. The Water and Sanitation Group.
- d. The Health and Nutrition Group.
- e. The Food and Logistics Group.
- f. The Agriculture Group.

Functions of the DMA

16. Clause 13 lists the DMA's functions, namely:
- a. To act as the central planning, coordinating and monitoring institution for disaster management post-disaster recovery.
 - b. To brief its Board of Directors and the Ministerial Task Force from time to time on progress and major problems in disaster management.
 - c. To warn the public of an approaching disaster and predict its effects on the country.
 - d. To maintain a data collection and dissemination system, and national strategic reserves of essential

commodities and equipment for immediate disaster relief.

- e. To formulate disaster mitigation, preparedness and response strategies and action plans to meet all foreseeable requirements in consultation with central and local government, uniformed services, non-governmental organisations and donor agencies.
- f. To prepare and update the National Disaster Management Plan and the supporting Disaster Management Manual.
- g. To hold in readiness a series of National Disaster Relief Plans to meet any likely disaster.
- h. To develop and sustain viable, effective structures and capacities at central government level and within districts in case of a disaster.
- i. To create and maintain a national cadre of trained and qualified personnel of disaster management.
- j. To arrange external and internal training for the staffs of government, uniformed services, non-governmental organisations and other local agencies which are directly involved with disaster management.
- k. To promote general education on disaster management, emergency plans and relief measures.
- l. To promote public awareness campaign on disasters at national, district and community levels.
- m. To conduct public relations and media briefing on disaster related programmes, progress and problems.
- n. To enhance the country's capability and take all necessary measures in order to prevent, alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of disasters.
- o. To receive, accept and account for any donations that may be given for the functions of the Authority.
- p. To make post-disaster reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery plans.
- q. To delegate appropriate powers and responsibilities to District Secretaries and monitor their effective implementation.

The DMA's Board of Directors

17. Clause 14 sets up a Board of Directors for the DMA and explains that the board manages and controls the DMA. The membership of the Board, which will be published in the Gazette, comprises:

- a. Members by virtue of their appointment:
 - (1) Government Secretary (Chairman).
 - (2) PS Economics, Prime Minister's Office.
 - (3) PS Planning.
 - (4) PS Finance.
 - (5) PS Agriculture.
 - (6) PS Defence (also representing the LDF).
 - (7) PS Health and Social Welfare.
 - (8) PS Home Affairs ((also representing RLMP).
 - (9) PS Information and Broadcasting.

- (10) PS Local Government.
 - (11) PS Natural Resources.
 - (12) Chief Executive of the DMA (Secretary)
- b. Members appointed by the Minister;
- (1) Three representatives of the private sector who have wide knowledge and experience of disaster management.

Functions of the Board of Directors

18. Clause 15 lists the Board's functions, namely:
- a. To advise the Minister on disaster management policy.
 - b. To advise the Prime Minister, through the Minister, on the requirements and the timing of a declaration of a disaster-induced emergency in accordance with the Constitution and to declare the country, any district or part thereof, to be a disaster area.
 - c. To ensure that funds are available to meet disaster-related and management expenditures.

Termination of Appointment of Board Members

19. Clause 16 authorises the Minister to terminate the appointment of a member of the DMA's Board of Directors when that member:
- a. Has been declared insolvent or has made an arrangement with his creditors.
 - b. Is incapacitated by physical or mental illness.
 - c. Has been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
 - d. Is otherwise unable or is, in the opinion of the Minister, unfit to discharge the functions of a member or is unsuitable to continue as a member.
 - e. Has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Chairman.

Tenure of Office of Board Members

20. Clause 17 regulates tenure of membership of the DMA's Board of Directors. Members are appointed by the Minister, serve for a period of 2 years and may be re-appointed.

Meetings of the DMA's Board of Directors

21. Clause 18 regulates Board meetings as follows:
- a. The Board shall meet as often as the business of the DMA may require, but, in any case, not less than four times in each financial year.
 - b. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board.
 - c. Any question before the Board at a meeting shall be decided by the majority of votes of the members present and voting.

- d. The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be eight members.
- e. A presiding member shall have a deliberate vote and in the event of an equality of votes, he shall have a casting vote.
- f. The Board may co-opt any person to attend any meeting of the Board for the purpose of assisting or advising the Board, but such co-opted person shall not vote.
- g. A special meeting of the Board may be called by the Chairman.
- h. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda and call all meetings for which 14 days notice shall be given, except for the special meeting under g. above.
- i. The validity of any act or proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy among the members or by any defect subsequently discovered in the appointment of a member or by reason that some person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
- j. The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of meetings, approved by the Chairman, as soon as possible after each meeting and before the next meeting, and the Chairman of the Board shall confirm the minutes of each meeting at a subsequent meeting.
- k. Under the Act, the Board may make provision for the following:
 - (1) The proper conduct of business of meetings of the Board.
 - (2) The management and administration of the DMA.
- l. Under the Act, the Board regulates its own procedure.

Expenses and Allowances for Board Members

22. Clause 19 regulates the payment of expenses and allowances to Board Members as appropriate.

Disclosure of Interest by Board Members

23. Clause 20 provides that Board Members must disclose interest, if any, in any transaction or project, and stipulates the penalties for not doing so.

Chief Executive

24. Clause 21 states that the Authority's Chief Executive is appointed by the Public Service Commission, with responsibility for administering and managing the Authority, and with other listed main responsibilities. During a disaster-induced emergency, the Chief Executive acts, and is also known, as the National Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Deputy Chief Executive

25. Clause 22 states that the Deputy stands in for the Chief Executive whenever necessary and acts, and is also known, as the Deputy National Disaster Relief Coordinator during a disaster induced emergency.

District Disaster Management Team (DDMT)

26. Clause 23 requires each district to establish and maintain a DDMT with a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary

and multi-representational membership, namely:

- a. District Secretary (Chairman).
- b. District Engineers for Urban and for Rural Water Supply.
- c. District Medical Officer.
- d. District Agricultural Officer.
- e. District Rural Development Officer.
- f. Manager of the District Food Management Unit Stores.
- g. District Disaster Management Officer (Secretary).
- h. District NGO Coordinator (when appointed during an emergency).
- i. Disaster Supplementary Feeding Coordinator (when appointed during an emergency).
- j. Representatives of the LDG and the RLMP.
- k. Two representatives of Churches.
- l. Two representatives of Schools.
- m. Chairperson, District Development Council (ex-officio).
- n. Principal Chief(s) (ex-officio).

Functions of the DDMT

27. Clause 24 lists the DDMT's functions, with more detail contained in the supporting Regulations. The main functions given in the Bill are:

- a. To assist the District Secretary in discharging responsibilities relating to disaster management in the district concerned.
- b. To assess particular hazards facing the district.
- c. To liaise and cooperate with the DMA in ensuring that development plans for the district take into account hazards facing or likely to face the district.
- d. To prepare emergency relief plans for the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the DMA and supervise the state of preparedness for emergencies in the district.
- e. To coordinate stockpiling of relief supplies for relief operations in the district.
- f. To receive and decide on all applications for relief assistance in the district.
- g. To promote public awareness of disasters and measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate them in the district.
- h. To organise training programmes for relief workers to practice the implementation of District Disaster Relief Plans.

Powers of the DDMT

28. Clause 25 grants the DDMT all powers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under the Act.

Village Disaster Management Team (VDMT)

29. Clause 26 requires the District Secretary and the local Village Development Council (VDC) to establish and maintain a VDMT in each community or cluster of communities, with more details of membership, functions and working relationships between the VDMT and the VDC which oversees the VDMT's work, contained in the

supporting Regulations.

Volunteers

30. Clause 27 regulates the employment of volunteers in district during a disaster-induced emergency. In the context of disaster management, the District Secretary may employ as a registered volunteer any person, private enterprise, NGO, charity or religious organisations to assist with relief or post-disaster recovery activities and to provide any disaster management service. If volunteers or voluntary organisation offer to help, then they comply with the District Secretary's orders or instructions.

District Disaster Relief Coordinator

31. Clause 28 states that the District Secretary acts, and is also known, as the District Disaster Relief Coordinator during a disaster-induced emergency.

Powers and Duties of the District Secretary

32. Clause 29 explains the general powers and duties of the District Secretary, in time of non-emergency as well as during a disaster-induced emergency, in respect of disaster management relief and recovery. More detail is contained in the supporting Regulations. The main powers and duties of the District Secretary contained in the Bill require him or her:

- a. To take any measures as, in his or her opinion, are necessary to deal with a state of a disaster-induced emergency, provided that such an order shall not extend to deprive any person of his life or personal liberty.
- b. To establish, maintain and control every disaster management organisation or every organisation involved with disaster management in the district.
- c. To provide, operate and coordinate all disaster management services and activities.
- d. To report and be responsible to the Chief Executive of the DMA on the progress and problems in respect of disaster management, disaster relief and post-disaster roles as frequently as the Chief Executive stipulates.
- e. To set up, during an emergency, a district operating room for providing a working base for the District Disaster Management Team for efficient relief operations.
- f. To exercise his or her powers in terms of this Act in cooperation with the DMA, and with the Lesotho Defence Force and the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police within the district.

Orders Given by the District Secretary

33. Clause 30 explains that the District Secretary may direct any person:

- a. To supply him with any relevant information concerning the existence and availability of any service, facility or asset whatsoever which could be used for or in connection with disaster management and which is under the control or in the possession of such person.
- b. To maintain such specified stocks of fuel, food water or media supplies, and equipment for use during a disaster-induced emergency as he may reasonably be expected to maintain.
- c. To perform any work or render any disaster management service which, as a result of disaster, is

necessary for the purpose of dealing with the situation.

The Bill also covers exceptions and procedures for grievances.

Delegation of Powers and Responsibilities by the District Secretary

34. Clause 31 regulates the delegation of a District Secretary's powers and responsibilities in respect of disaster management whereby he or she may, with the approval of the DMA's Chief Executive, delegate all or any of his or her powers or responsibilities to a member or members of the DDMT. If this is done, it does not divest the District Secretary of that power or responsibility, and he or she may at any time revoke or amend any order given by any member of the DDMT in the exercise of that delegated power or responsibility, unless the Chief Executive of the DMA stipulates otherwise.

District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO)

35. Clause 32 states that the DMA attaches a DDMO to each district and that the DDMO reports and is responsible directly to the District Secretary.

Functions of the DDMO

36. Clause 33 explains the DDMO's main functions, with more detail contained in the supporting Regulations. The main functions included in the Bill are:

- a. To provide a working link between the District Secretary, the DDMT, VDMTs in the district, and the DMA.
- b. To assist the District Secretary with:
 - (1) District and community disaster management, disaster relief and post disaster recovery tasks.
 - (2) Preparing reports, undertaking local training, and conducting public awareness campaigns.
 - (3) Providing input to national plans for managing disasters.

Disaster Management Fund

37. Clause 34 requires the establishment of a separate Fund and regulates its administration by the Chief Executive of the DMA, whereby all receipts and disbursements are recorded, and the Disaster Management Fund is maintained in accordance with Financial Regulations and other applicable laws.

Receipts

38. Clause 35 regulates the Fund's receipt of moneys, and investment interest accruing, from donations made for disaster management purposes.

Disbursements

39. Clause 35 regulates the Fund's disbursement of moneys for discharging the DMA's financial liabilities, expenses incurred by the DMA in exercising its functions, and other expenses approved by the Minister.

Donations

40. Clause 37 regulates the taking on charge and accounting for of donations made to the Fund in accordance

with regulations governing the receipt, issue and control of public store, equipment, plants, vehicles, machinery, buildings and related matters. Donations must be used for the purpose for which they have been donated. If no conditions are attached, donations must be used for implementing disaster management programmes.

Financial Year

41. Clause 38 states that the DMA's financial year is from 1st April to 31st March of the succeeding year, and thus coincides with that of the Government.

Annual Budget

42. Clause 39 regulates the DMA's annual budget, approved by the Board of Directors.

Audit

43. Clause 40 regulates the audit of the DMA's accounts with a copy of the auditor's report submitted to the Minister.

Annual Financial Report of the DMA

44. Clause 41 regulates the submission of the DMA's annual financial report, together with the auditor's report, to the Minister.

Transfer

45. Clause 42 states that all monies in the exiting National Disaster Relief Fund shall be transferred to the Disaster Management Fund mentioned at paragraph 37 in this memorandum.

Government Assistance

46. Clause 43 regulates the procedure for the Minister to provide government assistance to districts or a districts in the event of the need arising from a disaster-induced emergency.

Reimbursement and Indemnification

47. Clause 44 regulates the reimbursement and indemnification by the District Secretary of persons engaged in providing disaster management services, equipment, land, building or other property.

Disability Benefits

48. Clause 45 regulates compensation for public employees, volunteers and other persons injured or killed whilst employed on authorised disaster management work.

49. Clause 46 regulates indemnity for persons involved with disaster management, unless their act or omission was unreasonable or negligent, or was done in bad faith.

Offence and Penalty

50. Clause 47 describes penalties for offences under the Act.

Regulations

51. Clause 48 authorises the Act's supporting Regulations.

By-Laws

52. Clause 49 authorises a District Secretary to issue by-laws for carrying out disaster management functions.

Intent and Purpose

53. Clause 50 authorises the Minister to take appropriate action when any error, accident or omission occurs.

Repeals

54. Clause 51 repeals:

- a. Legal Notice No. 6 of 1977.
- b. Legal Notice No. 107 of 1995.