



**KWADUKUZA MUNICIPALITY**  
**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

**STORM DAMAGE – KWADUKUZA COAST**

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During the period between 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 to 21 March 2007 a severe storm exacerbated by extreme high tides struck the KwaZulu Natal coastline.

Extreme surf conditions resulted in the retreat of the Kwadukuza coastline. Severe erosion, with the loss of infrastructure and amenities were experienced at a number of beaches spanning a total distance of approximately 60km within the municipal boundaries - from Zimbali in the South to Zinkwazi in the North.

The southern coastline along Ballito, Salt Rock and Zinkwazi were critically affected with extensive erosion to the frontal dune cordon, demolishing and destabilizing of the promenade, some front lying properties, restaurants and commercial buildings as well as municipal facilities and amenities, including the loss of sewerage pump stations.

Notable infrastructure damage has led to potential health and safety risks which the Municipality has sort to limit.

A special Disaster Management Task Team was formed comprising of numerous private and public stakeholders, co-ordinated by the Kwadukuza Emergency Unit.

The task team have been conducting 6 hourly meetings evaluating and planning on a 12 hour cycle. Emanating from these deliberations are the following emergency and long term action plans.

**Emergency Action Plans**

- **Cordoning off of all danger zones to ensure people are kept within safe distances**
- **Immediate closure of certain access roads and regulation of other roads to allow for easy flow of traffic**
- **The beaches closed for a minimum period of 4 weeks until all safety and health aspects have been evaluated and addressed**
- **Precautionary Safety and Health Notices produced and displayed at entry points and other strategic areas within Kwadukuza, informing members of the public.**
- **The Kwadukuza Municipality has resolved to make application to Provincial and National Government requesting declaration of a disaster area for the Kwadukuza coastline, in terms of the National Disaster Act, 57, 2002. This process has already commenced and a formal response is awaited.**
- **An Emergency Technical Task Team is being established to address the emergency clean up operations which will commence on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10h00am – at the inaugural meeting to be held at the Ballito Clinic**
- **Urgent restoration of sewerage pump stations and interim action plans.**
- **A revised Easter Weekend Holiday plan is being developed to accommodate residents and visitors.**

**Medium to Long Term Action Plan**

- **A holistic Plan is to be developed, identifying and determining a comprehensive post disaster recovery and rehabilitation programme.**
- **A proactive public awareness and tourism campaign is being developed.**
- **A professional technical task team will be established on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 15h00pm at the inaugural meeting to be held at Ballito Clinic.**
- **A Economic and Tourism Task Team will be established on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> , at 15h00pm, at the inaugural meeting to be held at the Ballito Fire Station.**

**It must be stressed, that the Municipality is very serious about its intention to ensure that recovery and rehabilitation will be of an appropriate holistic nature. We strongly request that all parties affected by the storm damage consult with the relevant technical task team on rehabilitation measures. Any unauthorized rehabilitation to properties will not be condoned and actions will be taken against transgressors.**

**The Municipality is aware of the economic impact and negative perception a disaster of this nature may have on the region and we would like to assure both residents and visitors of its commitment to normalizing the situation.**

**We have had an overwhelming response from both the private and public sectors, who have pledged their commitment and resources to assist in our plight to restore our environment.**

**The Mayor and the Council of KwaDukuza would like to extend their utmost appreciation to all, - it is indeed on the basis of this united redemption that we are afforded the confidence to succeed in our future pursuits.**

**Please be informed that we will establish a continual information dissemination medium through electronic link on the Kwadukuza Municipal Website, where this Press Release inclusive of other relevant updated reports will be placed for ease of reference and information purposes. This link should be available from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

**Members of the public wishing to contribute by way of resources - be it financial or expertise - to this recovery and rehabilitation programme should kindly contact one of the following officials:-**

**Convener - KwaDukuza Disaster Task Team  
Mr Adrian Barnes  
Chief Fire Officer - Kwadukuza**

**Convener of the Technical Task Team  
Mr Nollie Rabie  
Civil Engineer Dept - KwaDukuza**

**Convener of the Economic and Tourism Task Team  
Ms Collette Bundy  
Asst. Director - Local Economic Development  
Kwadukuza**

**Contact Details: Kwadukuza Call Centre/ Emergency Unit  
032-9462711**

**In conclusion, We would like to leave this message with members of the public. The KwaDukuza coastline, more commonly known as the Dolphin Coast has long been identified as a leading tourist destination, in South Africa, - we as the Kwadukuza Municipality are actively endeavouring to ensure that we continue to provide the holiday experience that is synomous with this coast, our first priority is to do this within a safe and secure environment.**

**Thank You**