**KwaZulu Natal STORMS: 24 people have died says MEC (South Africa)**

[**https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/kwazulu-natal-storms-breaking-news-24-people-have-dead-rain-lightning-12-january-2022/**](https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/kwazulu-natal-storms-breaking-news-24-people-have-dead-rain-lightning-12-january-2022/)

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The KwaZulu Natal storms and severe weather conditions have been awfully fatal. The province’s government has revealed that 24 innocent lives were lost since the disaster began mid-December.

So what exactly occurred and how? According to the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) MEC Sipho Hlomuka, the appalling deaths started when the thunderstorms hit on 15 December 2021.

The deadly KwaZulu Natal storms included severe flooding, freaky winds, and lightning strikes.

The MEC said 18 people died from drownings, while six others were killed by violent lightning.

“This number is expected to increase following the severe thunderstorms that struck the province during the weekend.”

“Disaster Management teams are still busy with assessments of the extent of the damage in some of the municipalities, where inclement weather conditions resulted in 205 incidents, which include strong winds, lightning strikes, structural fires, heavy rains, structural collapse and drownings,” said Hlomuka.

“The estimated cost of the damage currently stands at R3.2 billion,” he said.

Meanwhile, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) has provided a yellow level-2 warning for thunderstorms in the province on Wednesday.

“Severe thunderstorms that may result in heavy downpours and large amounts of small hail, leading to flash flooding of roads/bridges, low-lying areas and settlements – also causing difficulty in driving due to reduced visibility – is expected along the escarpment areas of Mpumalanga and the western parts of KwaZulu-Natal, and the eastern parts of the Eastern Cape,” the warning read.

Hlomuka concluded by appealing to affected districts and municipalities to come forward with reports for urgent assistance.

“Currently, the affected municipalities have been requested to submit reports on the extent of the damage so that the Provincial Disaster Management Centre can determine appropriate remedies to provide additional support,” he said.

“The department of Cogta has allocated relief stock to districts that will in turn supply it to the affected local municipalities.”