

NEWSLETTER



AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HIT HARD: Executive Mayor Cllr Trevor Abrahams met with the National Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, and various local roleplayers in agricultural sector, more specifically the fruit industry, to discuss the effects of the recent storm and flood disaster on agriculture and to find a way forward to avoid any further losses.



CLLR TREVOR ABRAHAMS
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

From the Mayor's Desk

Good day Residents,

The Witzenberg area has been hit hard by the recent storms and subsequent flooding, mudslides, rockfalls, and humanitarian crisis, with many residents displaced and left destitute after losing their homes and belongings. Although we had been preparing for the impact of the two cold fronts and anticipated severe weather conditions, like many others across the province, we could not have foreseen the scale of devastation it would bring to our communities, infrastructure, and rural areas, and farmers.

From critical road closures and devastating floods to rescue missions, prolonged power outages, and severe traffic congestion caused by stranded heavy motor vehicles and trucks, the impact has been widespread and deeply challenging.

Rural communities and farmers in particular have been severely affected, with access routes damaged or cut off, while emergency and disaster response teams have been working around the clock to assist affected residents and restore essential services. We have also had extensive damage to parts in Ceres and the power supply crisis in Ceres continues. Not to mention the work still ahead on Michell's Pass.

Despite these immense challenges, various emergency services, municipal teams, disaster management officials, and other roleplayers continue to work tirelessly to stabilise conditions, support affected communities, and restore critical infrastructure and services across the Witzenberg area. Our deepest condolences to the families who have lost loved ones. Take care and God bless as we rebuild!

24-hr Control Room: 023 492 0181/2 OR send a WhatsApp message: 081 896 5480

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY
023 316 1854 (office hours)

24-HOUR EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM
023 492 0181/2

CERES: 023 316 8600/24
TULBAGH: 023 230 8100
PA HAMLET: 023 313 3133
WOLSELEY: 023 231 8000

CERES HOSPITAL:
023 316 9600

AMBULANCE:
023 346 6000

FIRE SERVICES:
023 492 0181/2 (all towns)
112 (from any cellular phone)

ELECTRICITY WOES FOR CERES AFTER STORM

Due to severe storm damage to Eskom infrastructure, large parts of the greater Witzenberg were also left without electricity, similar to many other areas across the province. While the power supply to Wolseley and Tulbagh was restored relatively quickly following the blackout on 12 May, Ceres and surrounding areas continued to struggle with a severely constrained and crippled electricity grid, resulting in prolonged outages and ongoing instability. This after Ceres were only switched on again by the Friday, 15 May.

After several days without electricity, power was eventually restored four days later, but with Eskom only able to provide a limited supply of 10MVA to the greater Ceres area and surrounding communities. As a result, a rotational loadshedding schedule had to be implemented to ensure fair and controlled distribution of electricity among residential areas, businesses, and larger consumers.

Unfortunately, the current electricity load remains extremely high when too many appliances are used simultaneously, placing additional strain on the already limited supply network and increasing the risk of overloading and tripping, as well as further loadshedding.

We therefore urge the public to please limit the use of non-essential appliances wherever possible in order to assist in stabilising the network and reducing unnecessary outages. See below schedule for ease of reference. Note that the schedule is subject to change as per the demand and limitation, and amended as and when needed to accommodate all.

The ongoing electricity supply challenges and infrastructure constraints have since been escalated to national level for urgent intervention and support.

SEVERE DAMAGE AT PINE FOREST/ DENNEBOS RESORT

Kindly note that the Pine Forest Resort (Dennebos) is closed for bookings until further notice due to the recent storm and structural damage from fallen trees. More than 22 municipal structures and 46 semi permanent plots suffered severe to minor damage, of which most are irreparable. Due to clean-up and infrastructure repairs, **no new bookings** will be accepted until further notice.



LOADSHEDDING SCHEDULES

Please use electricity sparingly and only when necessary.



BEURTKRAGSKEDULE

Gebruik asseblief elektrisiteit spaarsam en slegs wanneer nodig.



ISHEDYULI YOKUCIMWA KOMBANE

Nceda usebenzise umbane ngoononophelo kwaye kuphela xa kuyimfuneko.

GROUP 1



LOADSHEDDING SCHEDULE



BEURTKRAG SKEDULE



ISHEDYULI YOKUCIMWA KOMBANE

MONDAY TO THURSDAY			FRIDAY TO SATURDAY			SUNDAYS		
START TIME	END TIME	STATUS	START TIME	END TIME	STATUS	START TIME	END TIME	STATUS
5:30 AM	10:00 AM	ON	5:30 AM	10:00 AM	ON	12:00 AM	8:00 AM	OFF
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	OFF	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	OFF	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	ON
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	ON	6:00 PM	12:00 AM	ON	1:00 PM	6:00 PM	OFF
10:00 PM	5:30 AM	OFF	12:00 AM	8:00 AM**	OFF	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	ON
						10:00 PM	5:30 AM*	OFF

AFFECTED AREAS

Bella Vista, Nduli Section 1, Ceres residential areas and town

GROUP 2



LOADSHEDDING SCHEDULE



BEURTKRAG SKEDULE



ISHEDYULI YOKUCIMWA KOMBANE

MONDAY TO THURSDAY			FRIDAY TO SATURDAY			SUNDAYS		
START TIME	END TIME	STATUS	START TIME	END TIME	STATUS	START TIME	END TIME	STATUS
5:30 AM	10:00 AM	OFF	5:30 AM	10:00 AM	OFF	12:00 AM	8:00 AM	OFF
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	ON	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	ON	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	ON
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	OFF	6:00 PM	12:00 AM	OFF	1:00 PM	6:00 PM	OFF
10:00 PM	5:30 AM	ON	12:00 AM	8:00 AM**	ON	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	ON
						10:00 PM	5:30 AM*	OFF

AFFECTED CUSTOMERS

CFP, CFG, Bella Fruita, CK Skoonvlei, CFJ, Du Toit Vrugte, Frupak, Nichols, CK Bon Chretien, Patrick, De Keur, Synceres, Chrispy, Nduli Section 2, Vredobos, Eselfontein Farm Line



SAVE ENERGY TODAY
FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW
THANK YOU!



BESPAAR ENERGIE VANDAG
VIR 'N BETER MÔRE
BAIE DANKIE!



GCINA AMANDLA NAMHLANJE
NGEKAMVA ELIQAQAMBILEYO
ENKOSI!

IMPORTANT ELECTRICITY UPDATE

Residents are requested to take note of the following updates regarding the current electricity supply challenges within the Witzenberg municipal area:

- * Eskom has not yet provided a further update regarding repairs to the 9 damaged pylons.
- * Internal loadshedding remains in effect and is being managed manually by the Municipality in accordance with the published schedule see below.
- * Unplanned power outages may still occur due to damaged infrastructure, ongoing faults and urgent maintenance work.
- * Wolseley and Tulbagh remain unaffected, as these areas are supplied by a different feeder network.
- * Some areas are currently being supplied through temporary electricity arrangements while permanent repairs continue.
- * The Municipality is required to remain within the 10 MVA supply limit imposed by Eskom. Electricity usage is continuously monitored, and warnings are issued when consumption approaches the permitted limit.
- * Op-die-Berg and Prince Alfred's Hamlet are supplied directly by Eskom.
- * Warmbokkeveld and Kouebokkeveld are currently without electricity supply. Eskom is presently conducting assessments in the affected areas.
- * Certain areas, including Nduli, have been divided into sections in order to comply with Eskom load restrictions. As a result, all areas cannot be restored simultaneously.
- * Illegal electricity connections continue to place significant strain on the network and negatively impact supply stability.
- * Construction of the new substation remains on track for completion in June. The transfer of cables from the old substation to the new substation is a delicate process and is expected to be completed as early as next week.

Residents are encouraged to report all electricity faults and related matters to the Municipal Control Room.

The Municipality thanks all residents for their continued patience, understanding and cooperation during this challenging period.



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

BLOCKED ELECTRICITY METERS

The Witzenberg Municipality hereby urges all residents who have fallen behind on their municipal accounts and whose electricity meters have been blocked to visit the **Finance credit control office** as soon as possible to make payment arrangements.

We unfortunately have to comply with policy and regulations. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Residents are requested **not to delay** and to engage with the Municipality to avoid further inconvenience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

FINANCE CREDIT CONTROL OFFICE
023 316 1854
admin@witzenberg.gov.za

24-HR CONTROL ROOM
023 492 0181/2
WhatsApp: 081 896 5480

The Municipality remains committed to working with residents to find suitable payment solutions and encourages affected account holders to act immediately.

Working together for a better Witzenberg.





OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Friday
07:30 – 16:00



DRINKING WATER QUALITY UPDATE

YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

Recent microbiological water quality tests conducted across all Witzenberg water treatment works confirmed that drinking water remains compliant with **SANS 241:2015** standards.



E.coli results were compliant in all samples tested.



Drinking water is safe for consumption.



Weekly monitoring continues across the municipality.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:
According to SANS 241 standards, E.coli levels must be 0. All tested samples met this requirement.

WEEKLY MICROBIOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE: E.COLI (CFU/100ml)
SANS 241:2015: LIMIT = 0

WATER TREATMENT WORKS	27-Apr-26	04-May-26	11-May-26	18-May-26
CERES WTW	<1	<1	<1	<1
OP-DIE-BERG WTW	<1	<1	<1	<1
PRINCE ALFRED HAMLET WTW	<1	<1	<1	<1
WOLSELEY WTW	<1	<1	<1	<1
TULBAGH WTW	<1	<1	<1	<1

FULL TEST RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

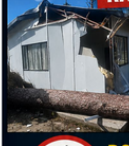
24-HR CONTROL ROOM
023 492 0181/2 | WhatsApp: 081 896 5480





YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST!

RATHER BE SAFE THAN SORRY!





DO NOT LIVE IN DAMAGED HOUSES AND STRUCTURES
These buildings may collapse and cause serious injury or death. Find safe shelter and report unsafe structures.



DO NOT CROSS TAPED OFF AREAS
Authorities have restricted these areas for your safety. Obey all barriers and warning signs.



DO NOT CROSS FLOODED AREAS, RIVERS, DAMAGED ROADWAYS AND BRIDGES
Floodwaters can be deeper and stronger than they appear. Roadways and bridges may be washed out or unstable. Turn around, don't drown. Your life is too valuable.



DAMAGE AND COST ASSESSMENTS TO REPAIR OR REPLACE IS UNDERWAY.

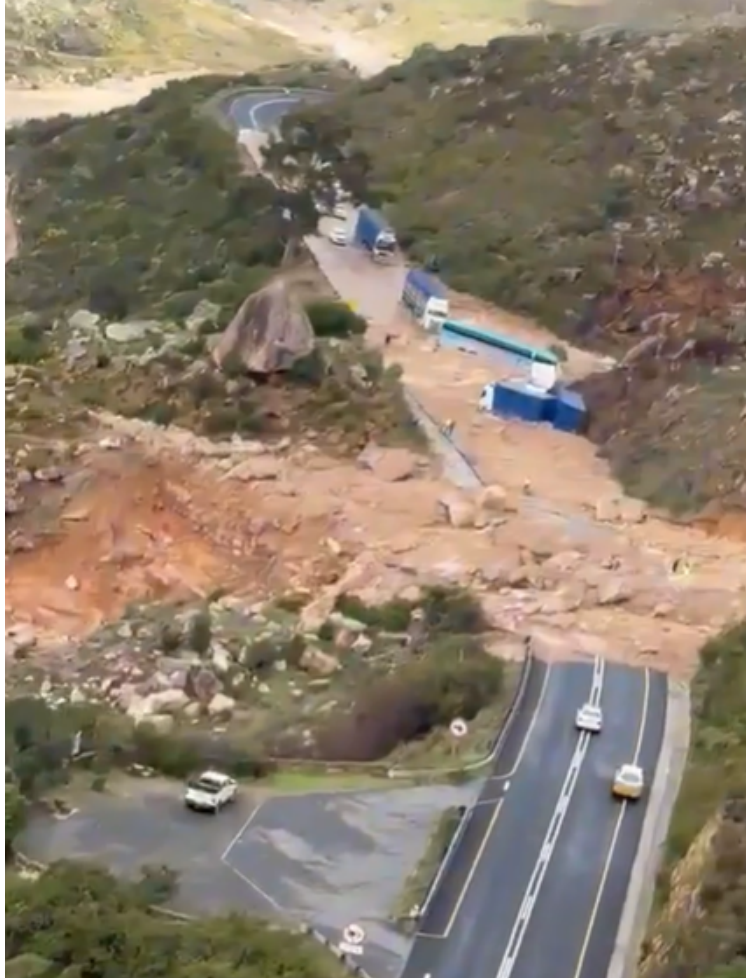
24-HR CONTROL ROOM
023 492 0181/2 | WhatsApp: 0818965480

BE ALERT. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES. THANK YOU!

STORM DAMAGE TO ROADS IN THE WITZENBERG

Like many other roads across the province, Witzenberg was hit hard, with traffic grinding to a standstill following the closure of Michell's Pass due to a massive mudslide and rockfalls, effectively cutting Ceres off from the rest of the province. Various other critical roads were also severely damaged by the storms lashing the region, including the R43 near the White Bridge, enroute to Michell's Pass.

Local streets were not spared, with several road surfaces sustaining significant damage, while the low-water bridge in Pretorius Street, Ceres, was completely destroyed. The severe weather and resulting road closures also led to hundreds of heavy motor vehicles (trucks) becoming stranded in Wolseley, lining residential streets throughout the town as flooding and closures prevented further travel. One of the major successes during the disaster response was the reopening of Michell's Pass just four days after the mudslide and rockfalls. A stop-and-go system is currently in place. The reopening restored the vital lifeline to the Ceres Valley and brought much-needed relief to residents, businesses, emergency services, and transport operators.



Road Notice: 16 May 2026, 14:15pm

Michell's Pass (R46) reopened

- **Hard work** by teams have **paid off**.
- **Michell's Pass** on the **R46 between Ceres and Wolseley** (and Ceres and Worcester) has been **reopened** following severe mudslides.
- This will significantly improve access to Ceres and provide a vital alternative route.
- A **stop-and-go** is in place as clean-up operations continue.
- Please drive carefully and be patient as there may be longer **waiting periods**.
- Final works will continue. Road users may experience some inconvenience in the coming months but access remains our priority.

Issued on 16 May 2026 at 14:15pm by:

- Mr Tofu's Simmers, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure
- Adv Chantal Smith, Head of Department, Department of Infrastructure



Severe damage to Low Water Bridge in Ceres

Herewith notice that the low-water bridge on Pretorius Street in Ceres has suffered severe flood damage following the recent storm. The bridge and roadway are completely **inaccessible** to all road users, especially pedestrians wanting to cross. We strongly urge the public to avoid the area entirely and to use alternative routes to and from their destinations. Safety remains our top priority. Damage assessments are currently underway, and the low water bridge remains closed indefinitely.

WOLSELEY HARDEST HIT BY RECENT STORM & FLOODS



A delegation led by the Executive Mayor of Witzenberg Municipality, Councillor Trevor Abrahams, recently visited various farming communities in and around Wolseley following the devastating storm and subsequent floods.

Many residents had to be rescued from their rooftops by a specialised diving unit, while others were fortunate enough to escape their flooded homes just in time, only to watch helplessly as their houses and belongings were swept away piece by piece.

Mayor Abrahams:

"The impact is clearly far more serious than the reports I had received. I am thankful that I came to see for myself what the real situation is on the ground. Together with our municipal officials here today, we are taking stock and will do our utmost to provide support wherever and however we can, and will escalate matters if needed.

"I would also like to thank every single person in our communities for reaching out to those in need and for spreading love and hope during this difficult time. To all the community leaders, organisations, churches, and individuals — thank you! You are amazing. May you all be blessed."

The visit to Wolseley — one of the worst affected areas, especially the farms White Bridge, Mostertshoek, Strathbreede, and surrounding communities — forms part of ongoing humanitarian relief assessments, monitoring, and reporting efforts in the greater Witzenberg.

For more information and assistance, contact us on 023 316 1854 or send an email to admin@witzenberg.gov.za or donate to the Flood relief Drive (details on the poster).

Community Relief Drive FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

Families affected by recent flooding need your help. Your donations of non-perishable goods can make a real difference.

DROP-OFF POINT: TOGRYERS MUSEUM
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00-16:00

We are in desperate need of some cash donations. Please use the following banking details with reference RELIEF FUNDS



Togryers museum
ABSA BANK
Cheque account
350 140 522



In moments like these, we are reminded of the strength of a community that stands together.