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THE NANDI COUNTY DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL, 2019

A Bill for

AN ACT of the County Assembly of Nandi to provide for the effective organization to ensure; mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters

ENACTED by the County Assembly of Nandi as follows—

PART I— PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Nandi County Disaster Management Act, 2019.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“affected area” means an area or part of the country affected by a disaster;

“Committee” means the Disaster Management Committee established in section 3;

“Directorate” means the Directorate of Disaster Management established in section 6;

“disaster” means a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man-made causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to and destruction of property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.

“disaster management” means a continuous and integrated process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing measures which are necessary or expedient for—

(a) prevention of danger or threat of any disaster;
(b) mitigation or reduction of risk of any disaster or its severity or consequences;
(d) capacity-building;
(e) preparedness to deal with any disaster;
(f) prompt response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster;
(g) assessing the severity or magnitude of effects of any disaster;
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(h) evacuation, rescue and relief;

(i) rehabilitation and reconstruction;

“executive member” means the county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to disaster management in the county;

“mitigation” means measures aimed at reducing the risk, impact or effects of a disaster or threatening disaster situation;

“Plan” means the County Disaster Management Plan prepared under section 10;

“Preparedness” means the state of readiness to deal with a threatening disaster situation or disaster and the effects thereof.

Objects of the Act

3. The objects of this Act are to—

(a) establish an efficient structure for the management of disasters and emergencies;

(b) enhance the capacity of the county government to effectively manage the impacts of disasters and emergencies and to take all necessary action to prevent or minimize threats to life, health and the environment from natural disasters and other emergencies;

(c) vest authority in persons to act during times of disaster and emergency in accordance with this Act, and to require the observance and implementation of directives given and initiatives taken by persons authorized under this Act;

(d) implement mechanisms to reduce risks and hazards that may cause, contribute to or exacerbate disaster or emergency situations in the county; and

(e) any other matter relating to effective implementation of the objects of this Act.

PART II—ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE DIRECTORATE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Establishment and Composition of the Disaster Management Committee

4. (1) There is established the Disaster Management Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of—

(a) the Governor of the county or a representative appointed in writing by the Governor who shall be the chairperson;
(b) the executive committee member responsible for matters relating to disaster management in the county;

(c) two persons working in the area of disaster management appointed by the executive member;

(d) a person appointed in writing by the Council of the Kenya Red Cross Society;

(e) a representative of the private sector appointed in writing by the chairperson of an association representing the private sector; and

(f) a person working in the area of fire and rescue unit in the county.

(g) (2) The appointment of the Committee members listed in subsection (1)(c), (d), (e) and (f) shall be done by the executive member.

(h) (3) The chief executive officer appointed in section 7 shall be the Secretary of the Committee.

**Functions of the Committee**

5. (1) The functions of the Committee are to—

(a) promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to disaster management in the county, with special emphasis on prevention and mitigation by other role-players involved in disaster management in the county;

(b) act as a repository of, and conduit for, information concerning disasters, impending disasters and disaster management in the county;

(c) act as an advisory and consultative body on issues concerning disasters and disaster management in the county to—

(i) state organs;

(ii) the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and

(iii) Communities and individuals.

(d) receive any grants, gifts, donations or endowments for purposes of disaster management in the county and make disbursements for this purpose there from;

(e) initiate and facilitate efforts to make funding of disaster management in the county available;

(f) may make recommendations to any relevant of State organ on—
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(i) draft legislation affecting this Act, or any other disaster management issue; and

(ii) the national disaster management framework;

(g) promote research into the aspects of disaster management in the county;

(h) give advice and guidance by disseminating information regarding disaster management in the county, especially to communities in the county that are vulnerable to disasters; and

(i) exercise any powers and perform any duties delegated and assigned to it under this Act or any other written law.

(2) The Committee may engage in any lawful activity in the county, whether alone or together with any other organization aimed at promoting the proper exercise of its powers or performance of its duties.

Establishment of the Directorate

6. There is established the Disaster Management Directorate in the county.

Staff of the Directorate

7. (1) The Directorate shall consist of a director for the time being responsible for matters relating to disaster management who shall be the head of the Directorate and such number of officers who shall be seconded by the County Public Service Board who is subject to the direction of the Committee and is responsible to it for the—

(a) implementation of the decisions of the Committee;

(b) day to day management of the affairs of the Directorate;

(c) organization and management of the employees of the Directorate; and

(d) any other function that may be assigned by the Committee.

(2) The Director and other staff of the Directorate shall be persons recruited, employed and deployed by the County Public Service Board.

8. (1) The functions of the Directorate are to—

(a) formulate the county disaster management policy;

(b) coordinate and monitor the implementation of the National Policy on Disaster Management and the County Disaster Management Plan;
(c) examine the vulnerability of different parts of the county to different disasters and specify prevention or mitigation measures;

(d) lay down guidelines to be followed for preparation of disaster management plans by the county departments;

(e) evaluate preparedness at all governmental or non-governmental levels in the county to respond to disaster and to enhance preparedness;

(f) co-ordinate response in the event of disaster;

(g) give directions to any county department or authority regarding actions to be taken in response to disaster;

(h) promote general education, awareness and community training in this regard;

(i) promote the recruitment, training and participation of volunteers in disaster management in the county;

(j) promote disaster management capacity building, training and education, including in schools, in the county;

(k) provide necessary technical assistance or give advice to local officers for carrying out their functions effectively;

(l) advise the county government regarding all financial matters in relation to disaster management;

(m) ensure that communication systems are in order and disaster management drills are being carried out regularly; and

(n) perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Committee or any other written law.

**County Disaster Management Plan**

9. (1) The Directorate shall prepare the County Disaster Management Plan.

(2) The Plan includes information on—

(a) the vulnerability of different parts of the county to different forms of disasters;

(b) the measures to be adopted for prevention and mitigation of disasters;

(c) the manner in which the mitigation measures shall be integrated with the development plans and projects;
(d) the capacity building and preparedness measures to be taken;
(e) the roles and responsibilities of each department of the county government in relation to the measures specified in section (b), (c) and (d); and
(f) the roles and responsibilities of different departments of the county government in responding to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.

(3) The Plan shall be reviewed and updated annually.

Implementation of Plan

10. When an emergency exists or is imminent or a disaster has occurred or is imminent, the Directorate or other persons designated in the Plan may cause the plan to be implemented.

PART III—MEASURES BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

County Government to take measures

11. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the county government may take all such measures as it considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of disaster management.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the measures which the county government may take includes measures with respect to all or any of the following matters, namely-

(a) co-ordination of actions of the departments and divisions of the county government, county governmental and non-governmental organizations in relation to disaster management;

(b) co-operation and assistance to any other person, as requested by them or otherwise considered appropriate by it;

(c) establishment of institutions for research, training and developmental programmes in the field of disaster management; and

(d) such other matters as it considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of securing effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

(3) The county government may extend such support to other counties affected by a major disaster as it may consider appropriate.

Period of Emergency

12. (1) For the purposes of this Act—

(a) a disaster exists when the Governor declares, by Notice, that an emergency exists after receiving advice from the Committee that a disaster has occurred;
(b) a threatened disaster exists when—

(i) the Governor declares by Notice, after, receiving advice from the Committee under subsection (2) that there is a substantial prospect that a disaster shall occur; or

(ii) an agency, whether within the county or otherwise, certified by the Directorate as an Accredited Disaster Notification Service under subsection (3), broadcasts or otherwise publishes a formal announcement warning persons of the threat of the striking of a disaster.

(2) The Directorate shall advise the Committee on request, and at any time the Directorate considers appropriate, of the occurrence of, or of the likely occurrence of a disaster.

(3) The Directorate may certify an agency within the county which they consider to have a high level of technical expertise in the prediction or assessment of risk of any kind of disaster, as an Accredited Disaster Notification Service for the purposes of this Act.

(4) A certification under subsection (3) may be general or limited to specified kinds of disaster.

**Declaration of Disaster**

13. (1) Subject to section 10, the Governor may issue a declaration of disaster which would activate, with immediate effect, the disaster response provisions of the Plan in the event of a disaster.

(2) The declaration under sub-section (1) shall be necessary to meet the circumstances for which the emergency is declared.

**Communication of Declaration**

14. Immediately after the declaration of a state of emergency, the Governor shall cause the details of the declaration to be communicated through the most appropriate means to the residents of the affected area and shall be published in the Gazette.

**Duration of Declaration**

15. (1) A declaration under section 12 is valid for a period of 14 days from the date of the declaration with the approval of the declaration.

(2) Despite subsection (1), the Governor may, if necessary, extend the duration of the declaration for further periods of 14 days each with approval of the County Assembly.

(3) In reference to the first extension, the approval stated in subsection (2) shall require a supporting vote of at least two-thirds of all
members of the County Assembly and any subsequent extensions requires a supporting vote of at least the quarters of all members of the County Assembly.

**Emergency Powers**

16. Upon the declaration of, and during a state of emergency, the Governor may, in respect of the county, issue an order to a person to do everything necessary to prevent or limit loss of life and damage to property or the environment, including any one or more of the following things—

(a) cause emergency plans to be implemented;

(b) utilize any property considered necessary to prevent, combat or alleviate the effects of any emergency or disaster;

(c) authorize or require any qualified person to render aid of such type as that person may be qualified to provide;

(d) control, permit or prohibit travel to or from any area or on any road, street or highway;

(e) cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock and personal property and make arrangements for their adequate care and protection;

(f) control or prevent the movement of people and the removal of livestock from any designated area that may have a contaminating disease;

(g) authorize the entry into any building, or upon any land without warrant;

(h) cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structure or crops in order to prevent, combat or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster;

(i) authorize the procurement and distribution of essential resources and the provision of essential services;

(j) regulate the distribution and availability of essential goods, services and resources;

(k) provide for the restoration of essential facilities, the distribution of essential supplies and the maintenance and co-ordination of emergency medical, social and other essential services; and

(l) expend such sums as are necessary to pay expenses caused by the emergency.
Termination of a state of emergency

17. (1) The Governor may terminate a state of emergency with respect to the county identified area when, in the opinion of the Governor, the emergency no longer exists.

(2) Upon termination of a state of emergency referred to in subsection (1), the Governor shall cause the details of the termination to be communicated through the most appropriate means, to the residents of the affected areas and shall be published in the Gazette.

Steps to abate Danger

18. (1) Where the Directorate identifies premises likely to pose a danger in the event of a disaster, it shall—

(i) certify that, in writing, to the owner or occupant of the property; and

(ii) give the owner specific instructions as to the steps to take to abate or remove the danger within four weeks of the receipt of the notice.

(2) A person who is served with a notice under subsection (1) and who does not take all the steps as directed by the Directorate in the notice to abate or remove the potential danger within four weeks from the date of receipt of the notice, commits an offence and in addition to any penalty imposed under section 25 shall be made to pay any expenses which the Directorate incurs to abate or remove the danger.

(3) Upon failure to comply with the requirements after notice, the Directorate shall take the necessary steps to give effect to the notice including entry by its employees or agents upon the premises after due notice to the owner or occupant of the premises.

(4) An employee or an agent of the Directorate exercising a function under this section must properly identify themselves to the occupant or owner of the property on which the danger was identified, by the production of their badge, tag or other identification device provided by the Directorate.

PART IV—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Establishment of the County Disaster Management Fund

19. The county government shall establish the County Disaster Management Fund which shall be administered, on behalf of the Directorate, by the chief executive officer.

(2) The County Disaster Management Fund shall be financed from the following sources, namely—
(a) monies allocated to the Fund by the County Assembly;
(b) such monies or assets as may accrue to the Directorate in the course of the exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act;
(b) grants made by the national government or other county governments; and
(c) loans, aid or donations from national or international agencies; and
(d) all monies from any other source provided or donated or lent to the Fund

(3) The County Disaster Management Fund shall be used towards meeting the expenses for emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, relief and reconstruction in the county after a disaster.

(4) The chief executive officer shall administer the County Disaster Management Fund subject to the provisions of all laws and regulations relating to public financial management.

Allocation of funds for disaster management

20. The county government shall, in their annual budgets, make provisions for funds for the purposes of carrying out the activities and programmes set out in its Plan.

Emergency Procurement

21. (1) Where, by reason of any impending disaster, the Committee is satisfied that immediate procurement of provisions or materials or the immediate application of resources are necessary for rescue or relief, the concerned department or authority may use direct procurement.

(2) The direct procurement referred to in subsection (1) must comply with the laws relating to public procurement.

PART V—OFFENCES AND PENAL TIES

Obstruction

22. A person who obstructs the Directorate or any person in the performance of an action authorized by this Act or who contravenes or fails to comply with—

(a) a provision of this Act or any regulation; or

(b) a direction, order or requirement made pursuant to this Act or the regulations, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to—

(i) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment of not more than six months or to both; or
(ii) in the case of a corporation, to a fine not exceeding five million shillings.

**False claim**

23. Whoever knowingly makes a claim which they know or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits consequent to disaster from any officer of the county government is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings or imprisonment of not more than one year, or to both.

**Misappropriation of money or materials**

24. Whoever, being entrusted with any money or materials, or otherwise being in custody of money or goods meant for providing relief in a threatening disaster or disaster, misappropriates or disposes of such money or materials or any part or wilfully compels any other person to do, is liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or imprisonment of not more than two years, or to both.

**False Alarm**

25. Whoever makes—or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings or imprisonment of not more than one year, or to both.

**General Penalty**

26. A person who commits an offence under this Act for which no penalty is prescribed is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Kenya shillings one hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or to both.

**PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Power to requisition resources for rescue operations**

27. (1) Where it appears to the Directorate that—

(a) any resources with the county government or any authority or person, are needed for the purpose of a prompt response; or

(b) any building or building materials or land or premises to demolish any building or other structure, as the case may be, is needed or likely to be needed for the purpose of rescue operations; or

(c) any vehicle including bulldozers, tractors, motor vehicles, carts, carriages, boats and other means of transport by air, land or water is needed or is likely to be needed for the purposes of transport of
resources from disaster affected areas or transport of resources to
the affected area or transport in connection with rescue,
rehabilitation or reconstruction; or

(d) directions are required to be issued to any person to abstain from
a certain act or to take certain order with regard to certain
property in their possession or under their management;

the Directorate may, by order in writing, requisition such resources or
premises or vehicle, as the case may be, and may make such further orders
as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient in this connection.

(2) The owners of premises, resources or vehicles affected by orders
issued under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) in subsection 1, shall be
entitled to claim reasonable compensation from the directorate as
admissible under any law for the time being in force.

(3) Where a person is aggrieved by the amount of compensation
awarded under subsection (2), the person may within thirty days appeal to
the Court with competent jurisdiction.

Compensation

28. (1) Where by reason of a disaster which results in a substantial
loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of property
or a large scale migration of the affected people consequent to the disaster,
the affected people shall be compensated for the loss of life or property, in
addition to relief, rehabilitation, or settlement.

(2) The amount of compensation shall be determined by the county
government.

Protection from personal liability

29. No action or proceeding may be brought against any person
acting under the authority of this Act, including an agent, for anything
done, or not done, or for any neglect—

(a) in the performance or intended performance of a duty under this
Act; or

(b) in the exercise or intended exercise of a power under this Act;

unless the person was acting in bad faith.

Entry upon property

30. A person, in the course of implementing an emergency
management plan pursuant to this Act or the regulations may, at any time,
enter any property.
Direction for communication of warnings

31. The Directorate, with authorization from the Committee, may give direction to any authority or person in control of any audio or audiovisual media or such other means of communication as may be available to carry any warning or advisories regarding any threatening disaster situation or disaster, and the said media or means of communication must comply with such direction.

Regulations

32. The executive member may make regulations on—

(a) emergency planning for the continuity of functions of departments, boards, commissions, corporations and other agencies of the county;

(b) the vesting of special powers and duties in various departments and agencies of the county for the purposes of emergency planning and the implementation of emergency management plans;

(c) the recognition of the professional, trade or other qualifications of persons sent to the county by another jurisdiction under an agreement entered into during a state of emergency or state of local emergency;

(d) the emergency planning, evaluation, and level of preparedness required of counties;

(e) emergency planning, evaluation and reporting for nongovernmental entities;

(f) prescribing the forms to be used for a declaration of a state of emergency and renewals and termination of the same;

(g) the establishment, operation, liability and responsibilities of ground search and rescue organizations;

(h) prescribing renewal periods for states of emergency; and

(i) any matter that the executive member considers necessary for the administration of this Act.
MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The essential purpose of the Bill is to provide for the management of disasters and emergencies in Nandi County by effective planning and risk reduction, response and recovery procedures and promotion of coordination amongst the response agencies.

The Bill is structured as follows—

Part—I of the Bill provides for preliminary matters including the citations and definitions of the words used in the Bill.

Part—II of the Bill provides for the establishment and administration of the Disaster Management Council.

Part—III of the Bill provides for the establishment of the Disaster Management Unit.

Part—IV of the Bill makes provisions on the preparation, approval and application of a County Disaster Management Plan for the County.

Part—V of the Bill provides for measures to be taken by the County government with regards to disaster management.

Part—VI of the Bill establishes the County Disaster Management Fund and provides for its administration and finance aspect.

Part—VII of the Bill provides for offences and penalties under the Act.

Part—VIII outlines the miscellaneous provision.

Dated this 22nd Day of November, 2018

ELPHAS CHERUIYOT,
Chairperson, Public Administration and Public Service Committee.