

Disaster Preparedness by local government: A case study of Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements in the eThekweni Municipality

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INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Disasters have inflicted a heavy cost on human, material and physical resources.
- ❑ SA fails to implement disaster management strategies such as preparedness.
- ❑ Preparedness is the state of readiness to respond to an emergency based on planning, training, and exercise.
- ❑ Informal settlement growth in metropolitan areas.
- ❑ Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002: disaster preparedness ensures that appropriate systems, procedures and resources are in place to provide effective assistance to disaster victims, thus facilitating relief measures and rehabilitation services.

Continues

- ❑ Neglect, social marginalization and limited access to resources compel helpless people to live and work in hazard-prone areas.
- ❑ Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements are prone to emergencies such as floods, fires and storm surges which negatively impact on people living in these vulnerable areas.
- ❑ Poor legislative systems regulating informal settlements.
- ❑ Inadequate disaster preparedness.
- ❑ Absence of basic services such as clean drinking water, poor sanitation and electricity.
- ❑ Informal settlements are deemed by the United Nations as areas where groups of housing have been constructed on land to which the occupants have no legal claim.
- ❑ They are common features of developing countries and are typically the product of an urgent need for shelter by urban poor.



PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Development of a robust disaster management policy and the centre within the eThekweni municipality.
- ❑ Disaster department to function effectively and efficiently by applying new strategies for disaster preparedness.
- ❑ To add value to the body of knowledge .
- ❑ To provide developmental recommendations

CONCEPTUALISATION

- ❑ Disaster preparedness encompasses measures aimed at enhancing life safety when a disaster occurs.
- ❑ It also includes actions designed to enhance the ability to undertake emergency actions to protect property and contain disaster damage and disruption.
- ❑ Attempt to forecast & mitigate the impact of disasters, respond to disasters.

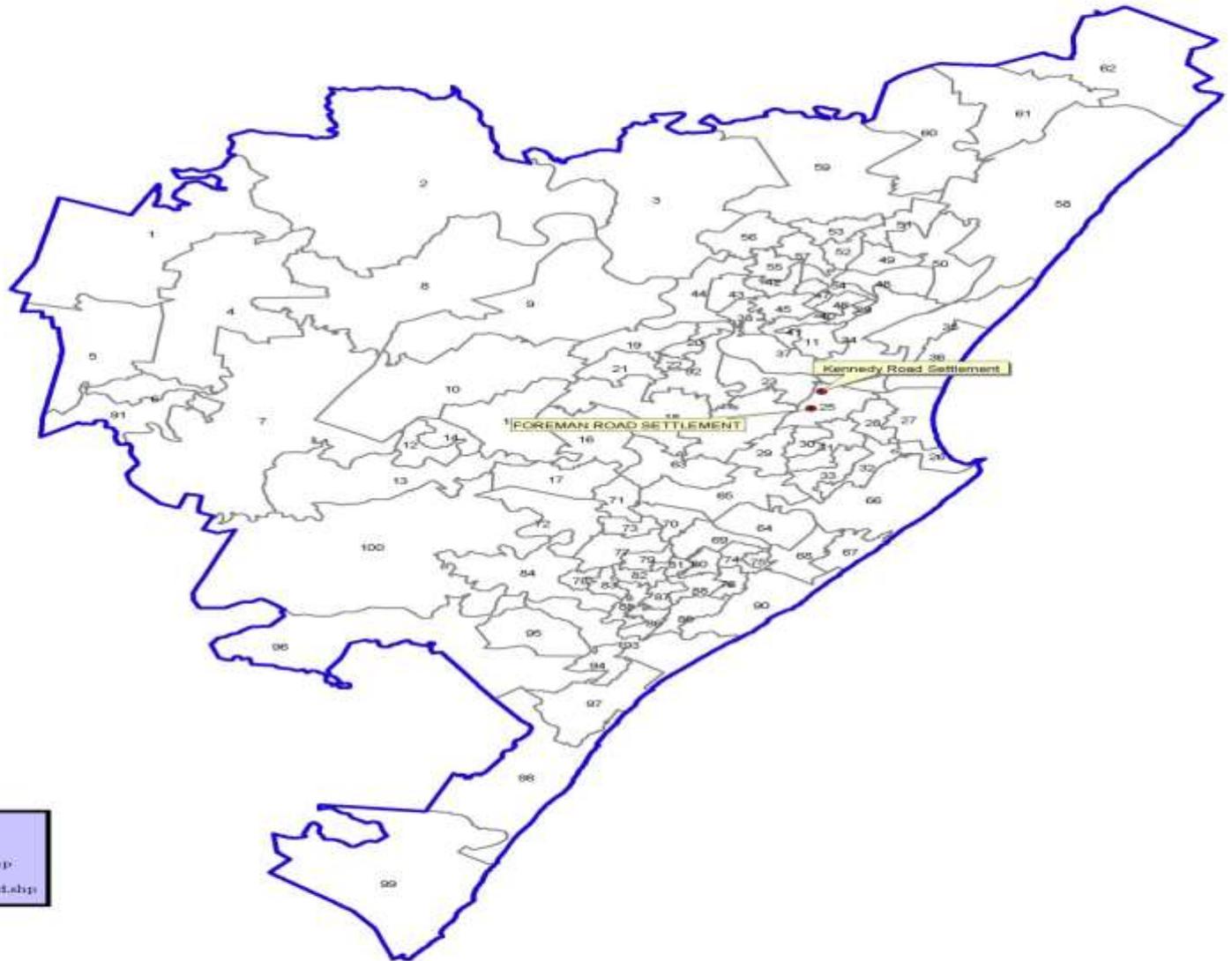
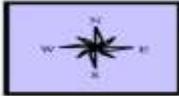
Strategies for disaster preparedness include:

- i. Awareness of event that is most likely to happen at a particular time and at a specific geographical location, risk and vulnerability assessment, response mechanisms, coordination,
- ii. information management, and the implementation of early-warning systems.
- iii. preparedness is to bring the skills, knowledge, functions and systems together and apply them against event scenarios.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements located in Clare Estate, under Ward 25, in Durban.
- ❑ These settlements are located within eThekweni Municipality.
- ❑ These settlements are represented by an organisation called Abahlali baseMjondolo.
- ❑ Power-KZN Elimination and Prevention of Re-emergence of Slum Bill, 2006.
- ❑ Exploitation by politicians, academics, tavern etc.

LOCALITY PLAN (KENNEDY AND FOREMAN ROAD SETTLEMENTS)



LEGEND

	Ward_bdy.shp
	Kennedy_road.shp



METHODOLOGY

- ❑ Questionnaires were administered to a population size of 220 respondents from which a sample size of 140 respondents.
- ❑ The questionnaire was analysed statistically using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences .
- ❑ A response rate of 63.6% was generated.
- ❑ Semi-structured interviews were also conducted with municipality officials.
- ❑ Two categories of data collected that include biographical profiles and 4 dimensions.
- ❑ This study used nominal, ordinal and Likert scale to distinguish the variables of the study.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- ❑ Act of 2002 does not provide detailed guidance for the preparation of disaster management plans
- ❑ Some of the information in a disaster management plan concerns operational procedures, which are not for general stakeholder consumption.
- ❑ Location of the informal settlements.
- ❑ The challenge exists in deciding which of the disaster management components should be included in the IDP.
- ❑ Delays in halting fires because of inefficiency and ineffectiveness from municipal officials.
- ❑ Its sole function is to supply blankets and food parcels after an emergency or a disaster.
- ❑ Disaster management is synopsised in the IDP.

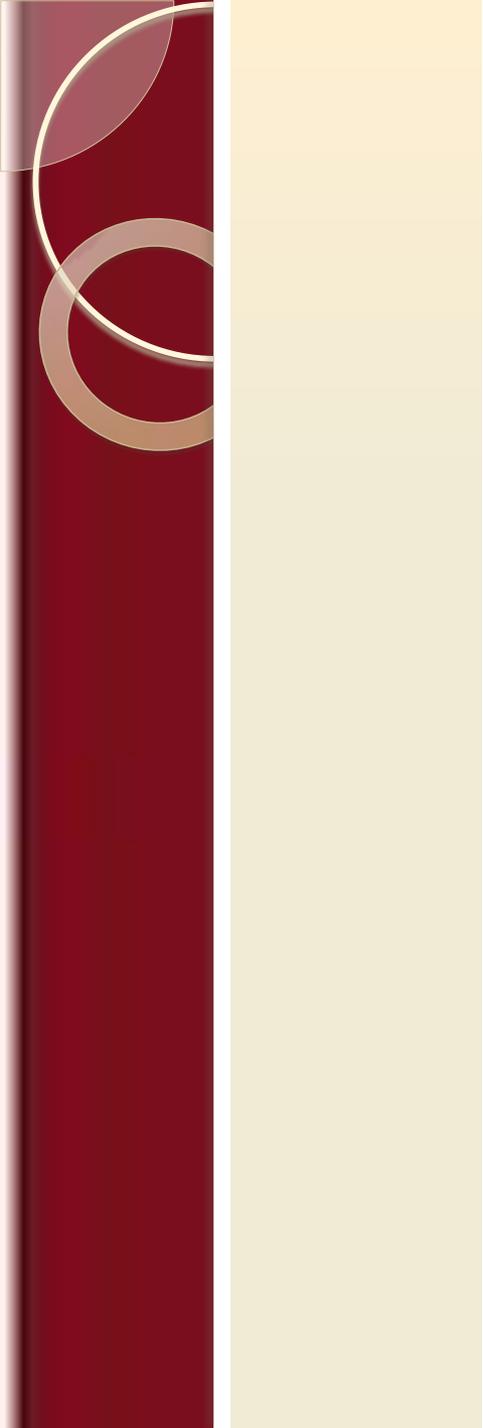
LITERATURE REVIEW

- ❑ Moses parting the Red Sea which can be interpreted as the first attempt at flood control.
- ❑ Noah and the Ark, when he built an ark from cypress wood, coated it with pitch inside and out, as a mitigation strategy for the forthcoming predicted floodwaters.
- ❑ Promulgation of the United State of America (USA) Congressional Act of 1803 which was passed to provide financial assistance to a New Hampshire town that had been devastated by fires.
- ❑ The cold war era where the nuclear war was seen as a potential disaster threat.

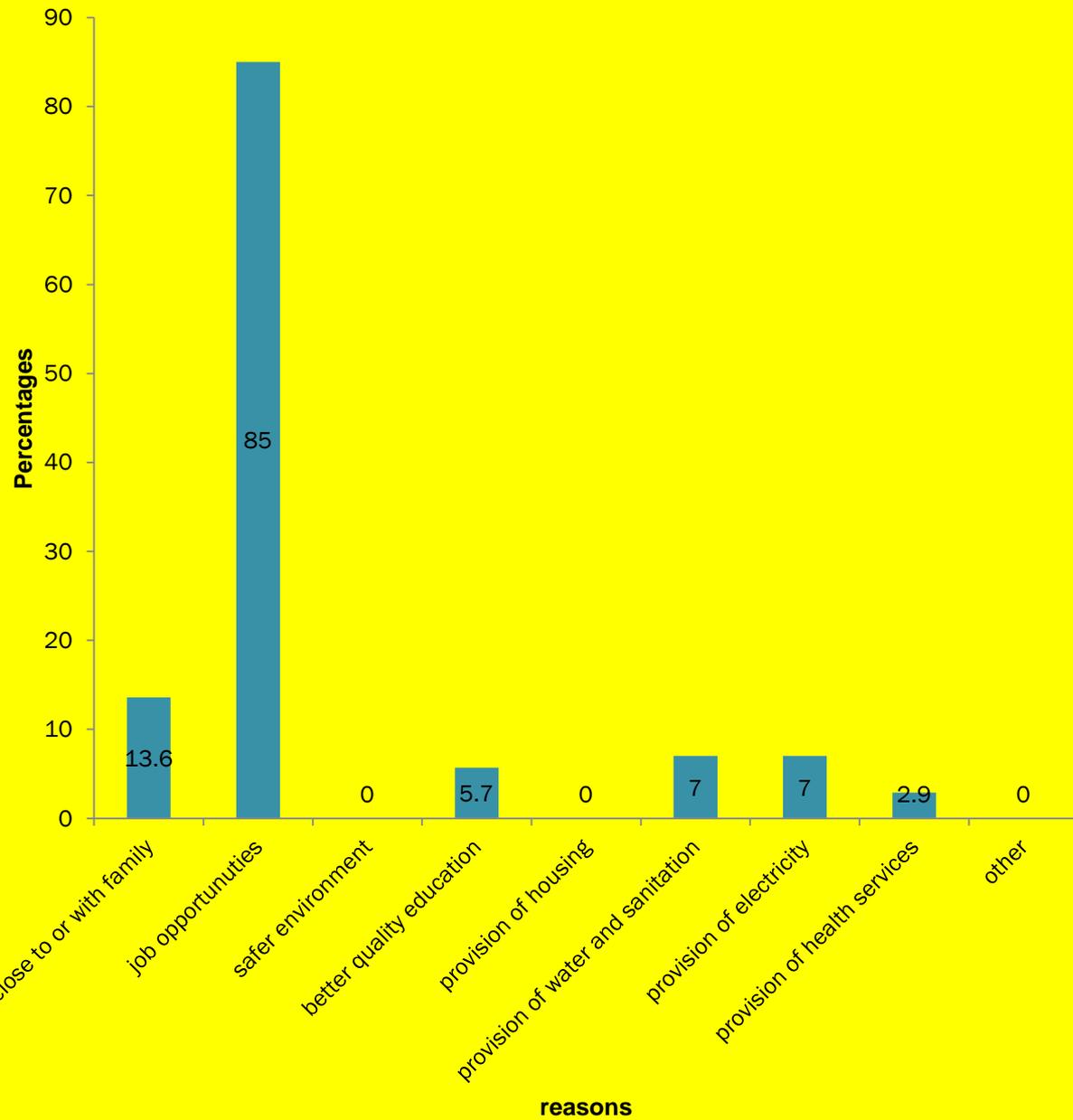
- ❑ UN is encouraging the building of early warning systems and conducting monitoring and forecasting routines which are working to increase local capacity to adequately boost local and regional preparedness .
- ❑ Developed countries, there are also good public-private partnerships which help for disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes.
- ❑ There are four parts to a preparedness programme which encapsulates planning, training and education, resource management and exercising, which refers to the physical training of the personnel such as fire marshals.

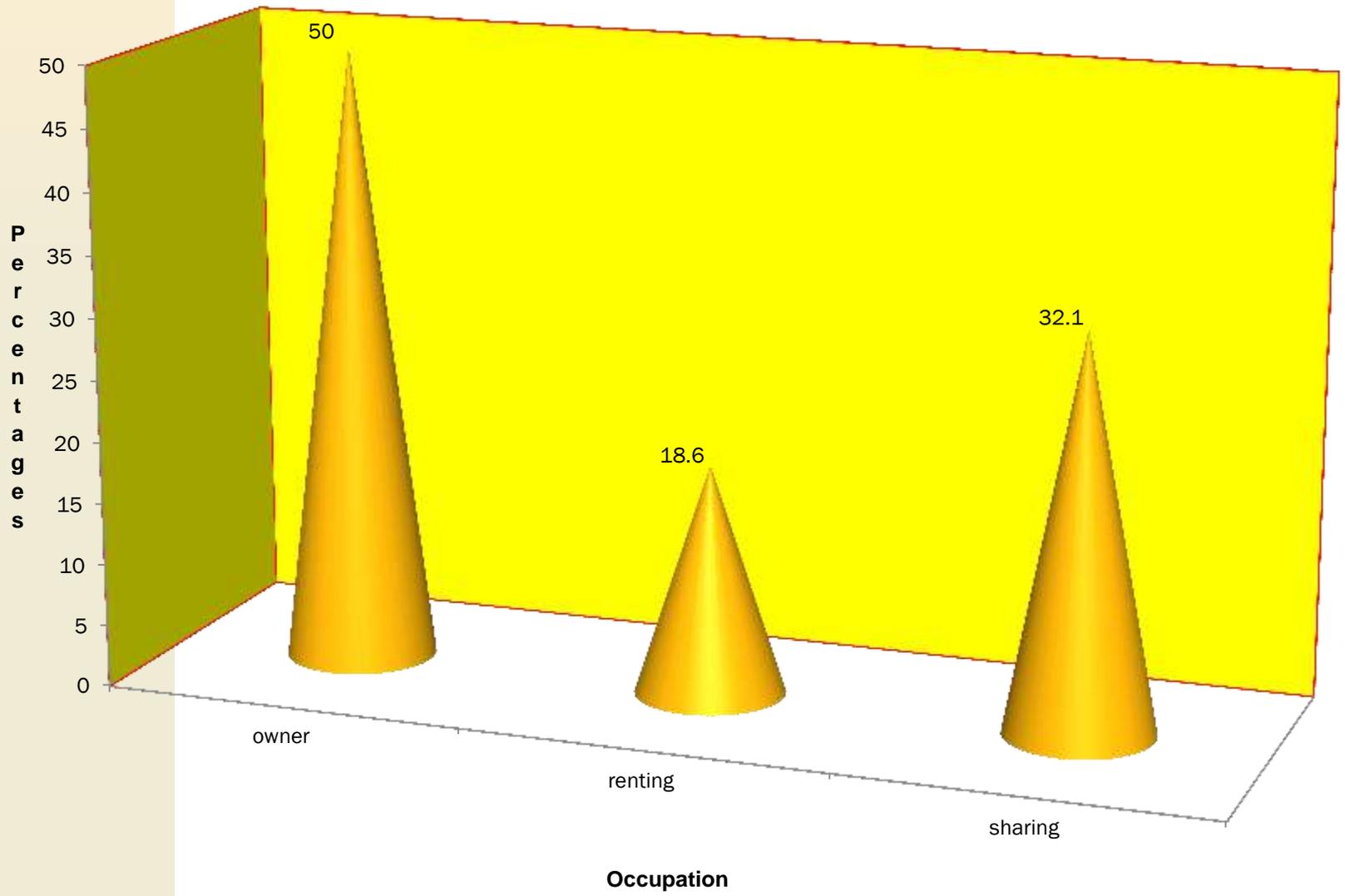
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

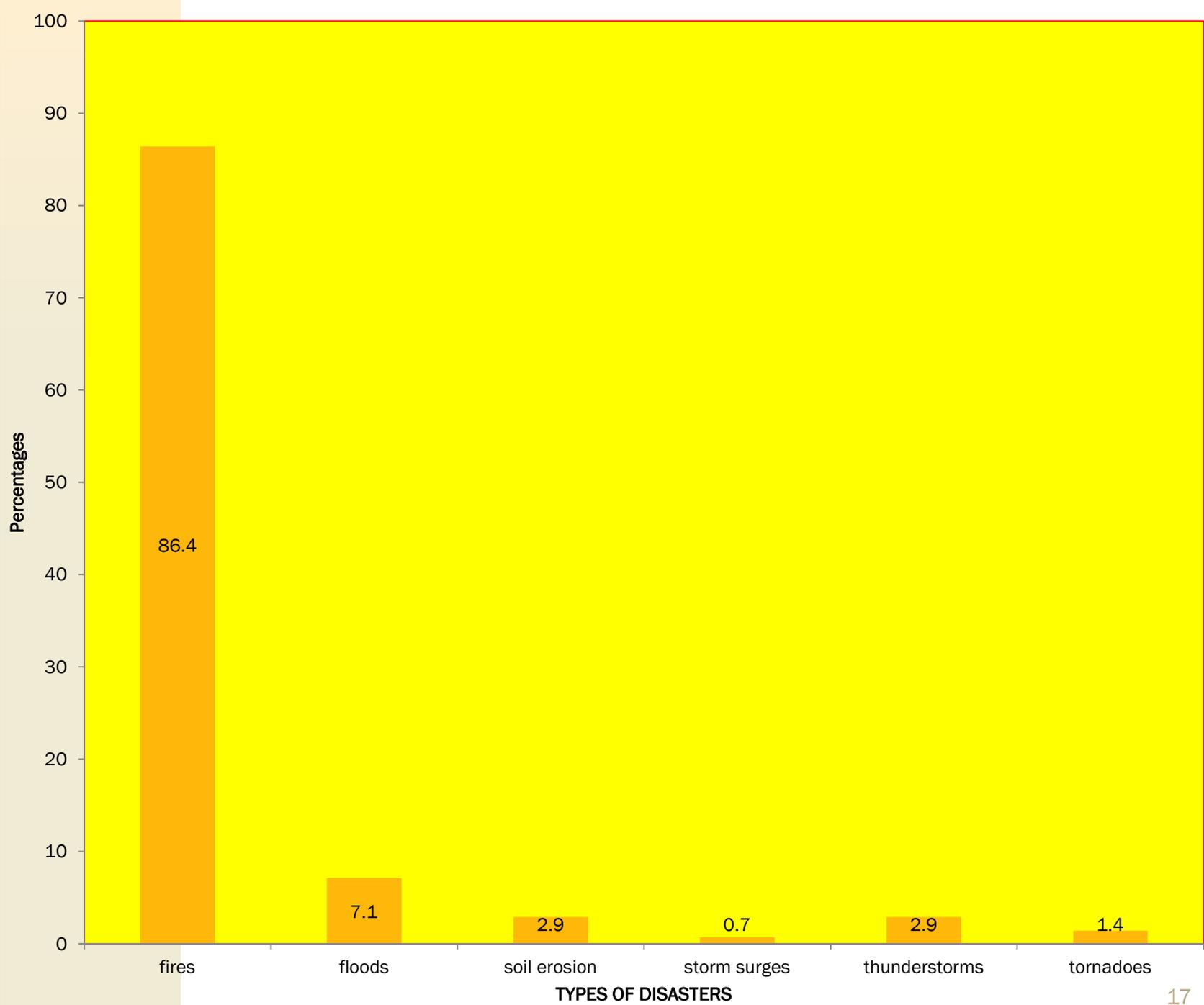
- ❑ Constitution: ensure the health of people, environmental protection and safety of its citizens.
- ❑ section 41 (1) (b) states that all spheres of government are required to “*secure the well being of the people of South Africa*”.
- ❑ It further provides, in section 152(e), that “*the objects of local government are to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government*”.
- ❑ Influenced by New Public Management (NPM), the South African government embarked on legislative transformation.
- ❑ NPM has selected applications which include decentralising disaster management from national government down to local government.
- ❑ Governmental managers have to increasingly evaluate and make necessary adjustments to all developmental projects so that they are able to involve risks, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- ❑ The Act presents new challenges in not only negotiating and writing up disaster management plans, but also in developing disaster management plans for general public scrutiny.



EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

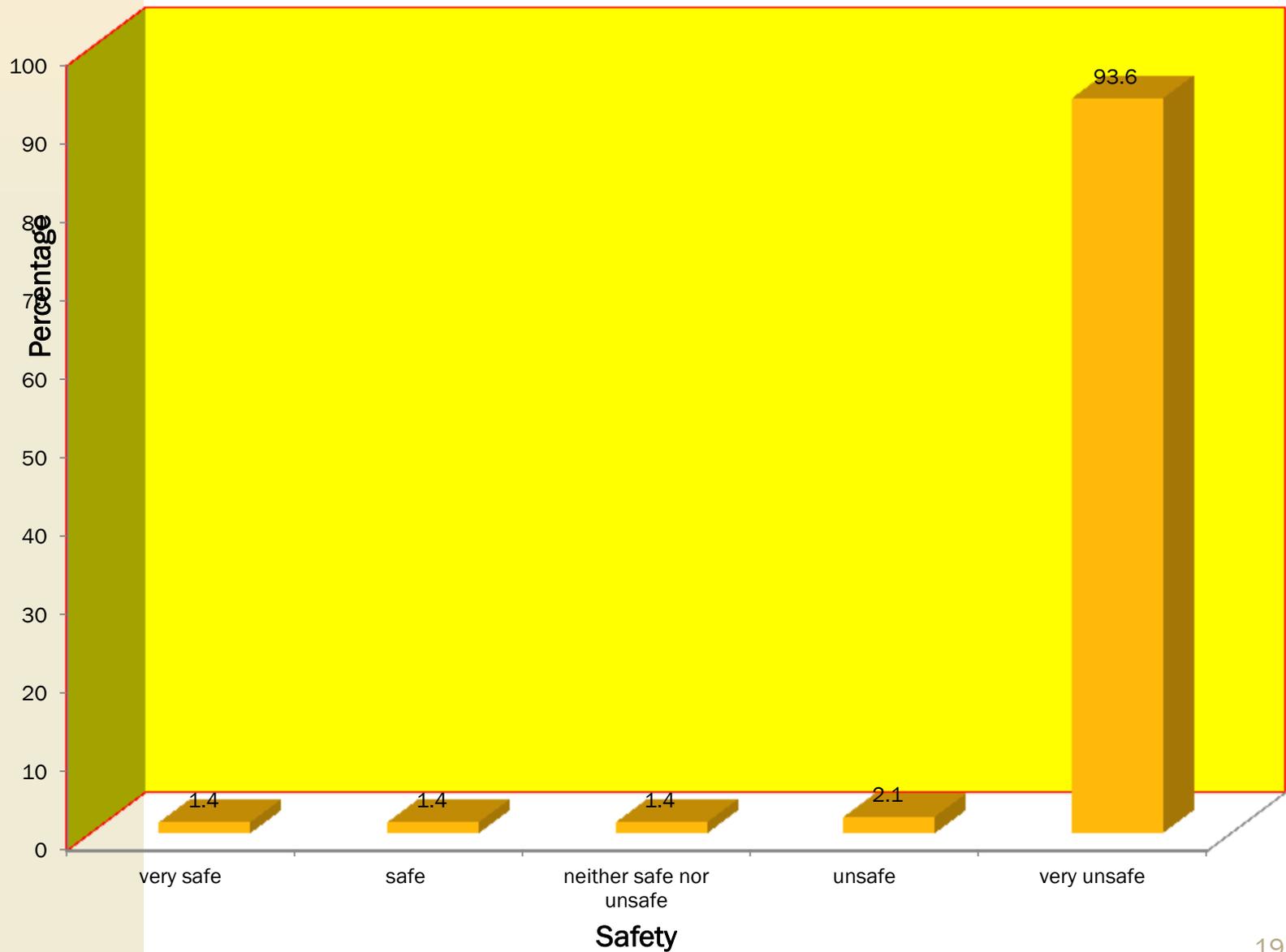




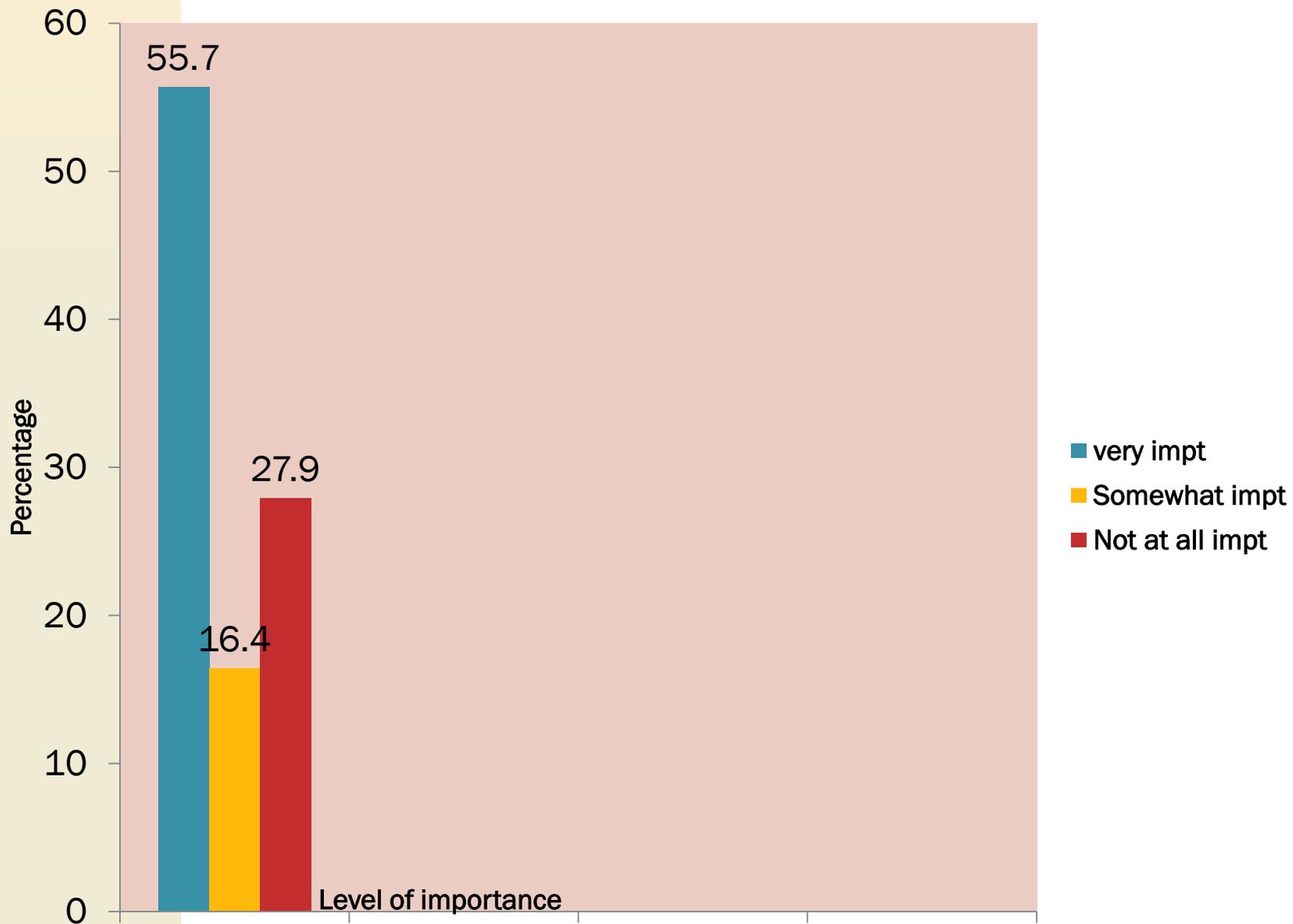




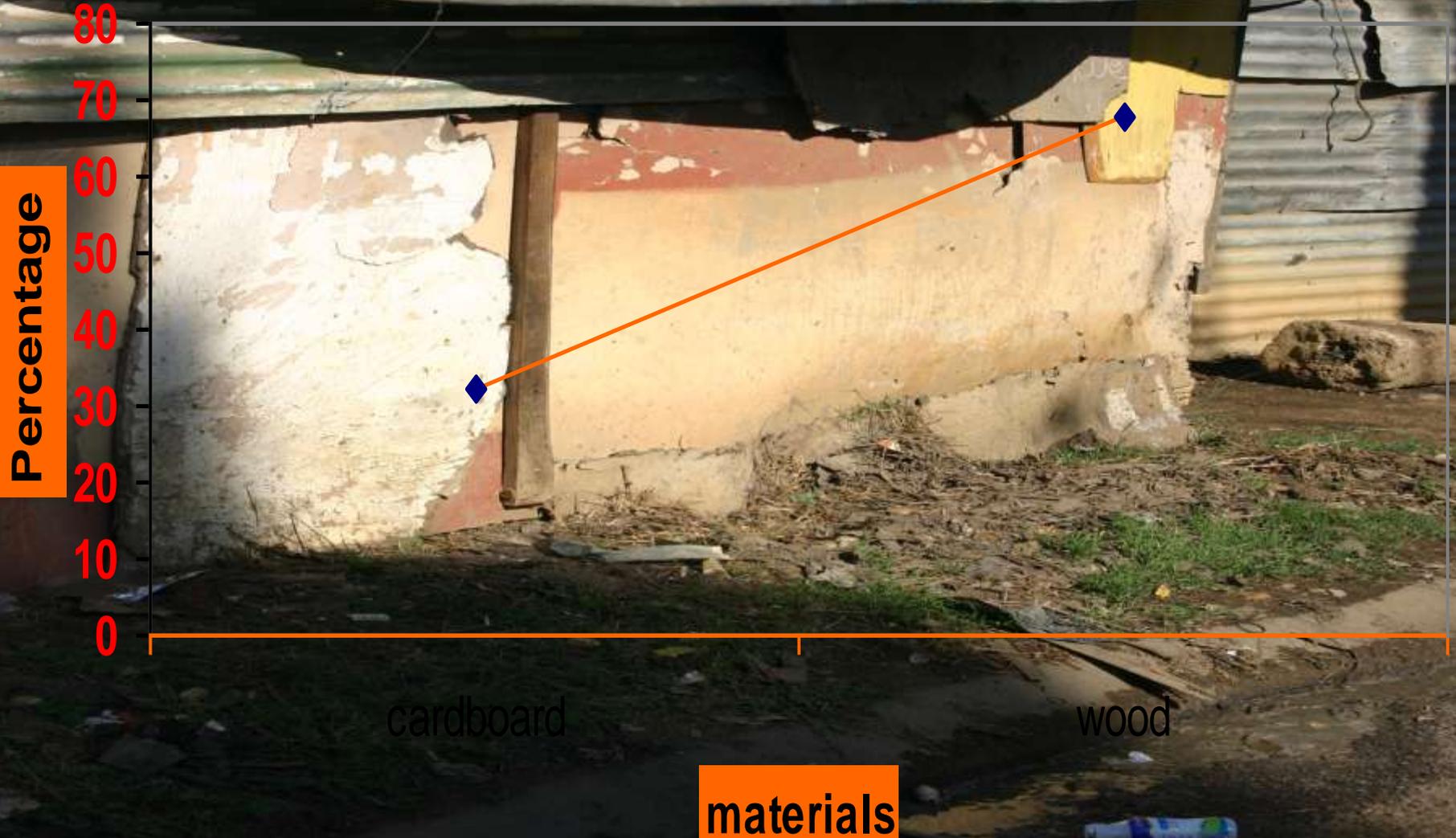
Protection from floods



The role of communities in disaster or emergency management before and after the disaster



Types of building materials



DISCUSSION

- ❑ An urgent need for the decentralisation of industries and basic services to rural areas.
- ❑ Overcrowding of people in the informal settlements makes it difficult for the municipalities, with budgeted resources, to prepare and prevent disasters.
- ❑ There are no fire extinguishers and water hydrants and preparedness strategies in the form of awareness and education.
- ❑ Planning policies and practices within the eThekweni Municipality fail to help informal settlements that are susceptible to fires through early warning systems.
- ❑ Absence of a 24 hour community warning devices and procedures.
- ❑ The council should implement best practice which includes indigenous knowledge application, disaster management plans and development initiatives.
- ❑ The role of the civil society.
- ❑ The use of GIS and remote sensing.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

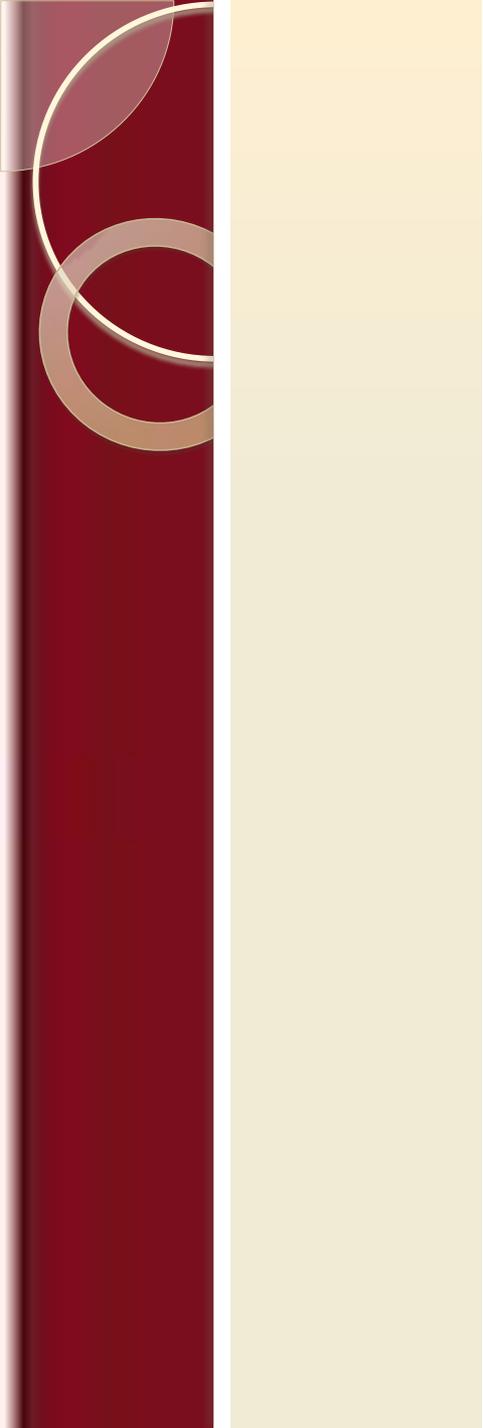
- ❑ National Task Team involving all stakeholders is required.**
- ❑ Local governments require the assistance of structures involving all disaster practitioners and specialists dedicated to monitoring and improving disaster preparedness approaches.**
- ❑ The council should implement best practice which includes indigenous knowledge application, disaster management plans and development initiatives.**
- ❑ Fire and Emergency Services should design a course in Fire Fighting and Prevention specifically to be implemented in the informal settlements.**

CONTINUES

- ❑ Public-private partnership in preparedness planning.
- ❑ Municipalities should promote integrated and coordinated disaster management through partnerships between different stakeholders and through cooperative relations between all spheres of government.
- ❑ Compliance to the provisions of the Act.
- ❑ Establishment of the policy on informal settlements management.
- ❑ Vulnerability index needs to be developed by the municipality in order to quantify risks in these informal settlements.

FUTURE RESEARCH

- ❑ Disaster preparedness often fails because it is rarely evidence based.
- ❑ GIS and Remote Sensing as preparedness tool used in the informal settlements.
- ❑ Disaster risk reduction should be part of the primary and secondary curricula.
- ❑ BPR/BPM interventions in disaster management departments.
- ❑ Project management and disaster management.



THANK YOU!!!