



**Press statement issued on behalf of the Executive Mayor of Midvaal Municipality  
Cllr Timothy Nast**

***Immediate release:*** 6 January 2011

**Residents along the Klip River urged to evacuate their homes**

For the second time in a month residents of Klipriver, Daleside and Henley-on-Klip are preparing to evacuate their homes as a result of continued heavy rains in the south of Gauteng. Yesterday, the Midvaal Local Municipality set up a mobile emergency centre in Henley-on-Klip to assist residents living along the Klip River. Storm water from yesterday afternoon's flash flood in the Meyerton area also damaged a number of houses. Residents estimate that the town received 100mm of rain in half an hour. Hundreds of sand bags were deployed to Meyerton's retirement village and various other homes in the area.

Midvaal's Executive Mayor, Councillor Timothy Nast, expressed his disbelief at the situation.

"Shortly before Christmas I visited a number of families who were affected by the previous flood and after seeing the destruction to their homes I could understand their anger and frustration. It is sad that we are preparing for a new round of evacuations just as people are starting to put their lives back together. The municipality has also sustained millions of rands in damage to infrastructure and the situation may even be worse than the previous round as the opening of the sluice gates at the Vaal Dam will definitely impact on the flow of the Klip River. I believe the Gauteng Government should strongly consider declaring disaster areas within the province and providing assistance to municipalities and local residents."

With predictions of further rains over the coming days the municipality is urging affected residents to evacuate their homes if they have not done so already. Persons are also encouraged to contact Midvaal's emergency services at (016) 360 7500 if they are in need of information or assistance.

End

For further information please contact Mrs Dot Corrigan: 083 489 2449