FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2019

Assignment 1

Disaster Risk Management

DRM721S
Dear Student,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for submitting your first assignment for Disaster Risk Management. The purpose of this feedback tutorial letter is to give you general feedback on the outcome of marking of your assignments. Hence, the tutorial letter will highlight important issues that have arisen during the marking of your assignments. I have given individual comments in your respective assignments as far as it is possible. The comments are meant to help you understand what is expected from you and how you were you supposed to complete your assignment. Please read and understand these comments and if you do not understand, contact me. The comments I made are meant to help you in your academic journey and to ensure that you learn and at the same time pass this course.

I’m going to reiterate that for you to pass this course, you need to be fully committed and work hard. You need to read and understand the question and search for the information needed to answer the question. Gather all the relevant information that you need in completing your assignment. After gathering the information needed to complete your assignment, formulate an outline on how you are going to approach your assignment and finally start writing your assignment. In writing your assignment it is important that you acknowledge all sources you used in compiling your assignment. It is also vital that you paraphrase (read and understand and use your own words) instead of copying and pasting. Furthermore, ensure that you edit and proofread your assignment before submission to ensure that you have answered the question asked and that there are very few mistakes.

Let’s look at the question for assignment 1.
Assignment 1 question

Read the article below and discuss the importance of an environmental management plan; and a disaster risk management programme and plan of a local authority as specified in the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2012 respectively. Based on the incident in the article advice the Namibia Diaries and City of Windhoek on what they should have done as per the provisions in the Environmental Management Act and the Disaster Risk Management Act respectively.

First and foremost, you need to ensure that you understand the question and what is required from you. The question asked about the importance of an environmental management plan as provided for in the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and disaster risk management programme and plan of a local authority as provided for in the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2012.

You then needed to look at the above-mentioned legal documents and establish what they have stated regarding the environmental management plan and disaster risk management programme and plan of a local authority. Thereafter, you then needed to advice the two institutions (City of Windhoek and Namibia Diaries) on how they should have handled the issue as per the provision in the acts.

According to the Environmental Management Act, Section 23, the objectives of the environmental plans are as follows:

1. Co-ordinate and harmonise the environmental policies, plans, programmes and decisions of the various organs of the state that exercise functions that may affect the environment or are entrusted with powers and duties aimed at the achievement, promotion, and protection of a sustainable environment in order to.
   a) Minimise the duplication of procedures and functions
   b) Promote consistency in the exercise of functions that may affect the environment.
2. Enable the Minister to monitor the achievement, promotions and protection of a sustainable environment.
According to the Act, the Minister of Environment, Travel and Tourism may identify and list by notice in the government Gazette or by regulations organs of the state that are exercising functions that may affect the environment. Such organs of the state are required to have an environmental plan. These environmental plans are based on the list of activities that cannot be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate. All institutions involved in the listed activities require an environmental clearance certificate. For example, Namibia Diaries will apply for an environmental clearance certificate from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The listed activity that Namibia Diaries would apply for is water use and disposal and industrial processes. If the application meets all the requirements, the Environmental Commissioner will grant the environmental clearance certificate.

An environmental management plan in this case is importance since it highlights the areas that are likely to affect the environment and ensure that adverse impacts are prevented or mitigated. For example, Namibia Diaries should indicate how their functions are affecting the environment and the mitigation measures in place to prevent those adverse effects.

**The importance of disaster risk management programme**

According to the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2012, Section 28, all local authority should have a disaster risk management programme for the area under its jurisdiction. Such a programme should contain the following:

1. A disaster risk management plan
2. Training programs and exercises for staff members, employees and other persons with respect to the provision of necessary services and the procedures to be followed in disaster response and recovery activities
3. Public education on risks to public safety and on disaster preparedness, response and recovery and
4. Any other element required for disaster management programs as may be prescribed.

The disaster risk management program should also include risk and hazard assessment a local authority is prone to and that are likely to cause harm to public safety. In addition, facilities that are at risk of disasters should also be identified.
The disaster risk management programme is important because it ensures that training is provided to staff members of the local authorities regarding the provision of essential services during disasters. It is also important given that it makes provision for the residents of a local authority get to be educated on hazards and risks that can happen in their areas so that they are prepared if these hazards are to occur. All these will ensure that the local authority and its people are prepared when disasters strike. City of Windhoek conduct community awareness program to inform their residents on their hazards within the city and the mitigation measures to be taken when disasters happen. The city also conducts vulnerability and capacity assessments to establish the capacity and vulnerability of its residents. These assessments are important because they enable the city to be ready and prepared when disasters strike. Assessments also highlight areas within the city that need attention.

**The importance of the disaster risk management plans for local authorities**

As stated earlier, the disaster risk management plan (DRMP) for a local authority is part of the disaster risk management programme for a local authority. Given that the DRM plan is part of the DRM programme, most of the things in the programme are also in the plan. DRM plan for a local authority should address:

1. Provision of essential services during a disaster
2. Procedures on how local authority employees will respond to disasters
3. The roles and responsibilities of the local authority in relation to the National DRM policy
4. The local authority’s role and responsibility regarding emergency response and disaster recovery and rehabilitation
5. The local authority disaster risk reduction strategies
6. Contingency strategies and emergency procedures in the event of a disaster including funding measures
7. Providing for the procurement of essential goods and services and their distribution
8. Providing for the establishment of strategic communication with the city
9. Facilitate training of personnel in the implementation of the plan
10. Review and update the plan.
The DRM plan for the local authority is important as it addresses all disaster risk management issues within the local authority. It makes provision for emergencies and disaster when they happen. For example, it ensures that the local authority officials are provided with training on how to conduct themselves during emergencies and disaster. It further ensures that the officials know their responsibilities when responding to emergencies and disaster.

Regarding what happened at Namibia Diaries’s plant at Avis, the City of Windhoek need to have disaster risk reduction strategies in place detailing measures to be taken to reduce disaster risks within the vicinity of the city. The city was supposed to work with Namibia Diaries to ensure that the risks and hazards which might happen are reduced. This is also part of what is required by the environmental clearance certificate. All issues that are likely to damage the environment should be taken care of and mitigation measures are also put in place to ensure that adverse effects to the environment are prevented. Taking measures to protect the environment is a disaster risk reduction strategy.

Advice to Namibia Diaries and City of Windhoek

Namibia Diaries

Namibia Diaries should adhere to the provision in the Environmental Management Act of 2007. It should apply for the environmental clearance certificate. The application should involve all listed activities that Namibia Diaries is involved in. Since Namibia Diaries is a factory and they store fuel for their production the listed activities will be industrial processes and energy generation, transmission and storage activities. In their application, they will include these two activities. The application should be forwarded to the Environmental Commissioner who would then approve or advise Namibia Diaries to go ahead with the Environmental Impact Assessment which should also include an environmental management plan. If the Environmental Commission is satisfied, then he can grant the certificate.
City of Windhoek

The City of Windhoek should ensure that all industries and institutions operating within its area of jurisdiction are adhering to the provisions of the national laws and policies such as the Environmental Management Act in order to be able to prevent and mitigate the impacts of disasters. The City’s authority should be familiar with activities happening within its jurisdiction and establish whether these activities are part of the listed activities as per the Environmental Management Act. Together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, they should ensure that the institutions involved in these activities have the required certification and are taking the necessary measures to ensure that they protect the environment and prevent and mitigate the impacts of hazards.

Issues that came up during the marking of your assignment

- I have noticed that some students don’t read and understand the question asked. This is very sad and disappointing. You don’t even read the instructions in the tutorial letter to understand what is expected from you. The tutorial letter is an important document and you should read it from the first page to the last page. If you don’t read the tutorial letter you will not know what is required from you. You don’t just jump to the assignment questions, please try to read and understand the information contained in the tutorial letter.
- I believe you know that you must acknowledge your sources as truthfully and honestly as possible. You only acknowledge the sources you have used in compiling your assignment. You need a minimum of six relevant sources. Some of you indicated sources that you have not even used. This is academic dishonesty and is regarded as misconduct under the NUST Rules and Regulations. Please refrain from doing this. You should also refrain from copying sources from the books or sources you read. You cannot do this, please read your own sources and acknowledge them accordingly as per the APA referencing style prescribed by NUST.
- You also need to edit and proofread your assignment to ensure that there are few spelling and grammatical errors.
- And finally ensure that your sentences and paragraphs are organised and structured in a coherent manner.
If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Yours sincerely
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