Northern Synod

TASK TEAM DISASTERS

Report

1. Assignment

As part of the General Synod's initiative regarding disasters, to create a network of people who can take the lead.

2. Task Team

Task team leader : Jack Radford

Task team members: Elmarie Jooste

Willie Korb

Louis Lemmer

Johan McDonald

Theo Oosthuysen

Jan Pretorius

Rehan Rheeder

Dewald Roux

Lizl-Louise Schoeman

Marinda van Niekerk

3. Execution of the assignment

The repatriation and deportation of seventy thousand undocumented immigrants at the Beit Bridge border post was the task team's first, and an unexpected, request for aid. The task team, under the able leadership of Jack Radford, as well as the involvement of the local minister at Musina, Willie Korb, responded immediately and provided aid on a daily basis. A 'WhatsApp group was created and there was continuous communication. At the same time, many immigrants were stranded in Pretoria at the embassies concerned. Dewald Roux and other minsters in the city took the initiative to provide the necessary aid. Congregations responded at short notice to provide finances, food, and clothing.

4. Closing word

The task team learned valuable lessons from this disaster which will be of great benefit in the church's provision of aid in disasters.