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Municipal vulnerability index should be compiled

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A **municipal vulnerability index** and disaster-risk management tools should be developed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the National Disaster Management Centre, the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) says in its submission on the 2013/14 Division of Revenue Bill.

It says a **vulnerability index** should be developed that will allow Government to identify and monitor municipalities most vulnerable to disasters.

The FFC says Government should also permit municipalities to use grant funds for **climate adaptation and mitigation investments** that involve creating, rehabilitating or modifying municipal infrastructure.

In addition, the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should restructure the Special Municipal Infrastructure Grant component of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant to allow municipalities to take proactive action in order to mitigate the impact of climate change in their areas.

The FFC suggests that municipalities should be able to **acquire or rehabilitate ecological infrastructure** such as coastal dunes or mangroves that provide natural protection from excessive storm surge and other weather events.

This, the Commission stresses, should be permitted **provided that the return on investment is greater than a comparable engineering solution**.

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