



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Drought demands adaption to explore other sources of water**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and all relevant stakeholders must adequately prepare for the occurrence of drought as it is a historical phenomenon that requires adaptation to the exploring of alternative sources of water.

This was the overarching message that was a common thread of all presenters, including those of provincial offices.

Taking place at the department's Roodeplaas Training Centre, the two-day workshop, aims to map out a way to prepare for the drought and to mitigate its effects especially as they are still being felt in the Western Cape.

DWS's Water Services and Local Water Management Acting Chief Director, Mr Moloko Matlala, said it was critical that there was preparedness on the part of the department and everyone as drought was always going to occur at various times.

He urged participants at the workshop to promote the idea of making sources of water such as rain water harvesting a norm, adding that each household should have a harvesting structure.

Moloko said his unit was witnessing grave water shortages in different areas where people had to pump for almost three hours to get water from a borehole, citing the municipalities that were water-stressed as being severely affected by drought.

He added that in some areas the drought led to the depletion of ground water which has led to pumps becoming defunct.

"Compounding the challenge of drought is the backlog on access to reliable water infrastructure, and the lack of operation and maintenance planning of water services infrastructure," Moloko said, adding that South Africa experienced erratic water supply due to infrastructure failure.

Yesterday the workshop was told that the drought situation in the winter rainfall areas of the country would get worse before it got better due to the predicted high temperatures.

Presenters from provincial offices echoed one another's sentiments, stressing that mitigation measures had to be prioritised to deal with the devastation of the drought.

Some of the measures that were mentioned included cooperation between all the different spheres of government to come up with an integrated approach to addressing the effects of the drought.



## water & sanitation

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The provinces gave a nod to the idea of implementing and enforcing restrictions in times of drought. In this regard, a combination of voluntary and mandatory restrictions and rationing were mentioned as effective instruments curtailing water demand by limiting water production, fitting restrictors and imposing fines.

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