



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DROUGHT RELIEF INTERVENTION IN EDUMBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
ADDRESS
BY DEPUTY MINISTER WATER AND SANITATION
MS PAMELA TSHWETE
EDUMBE, ZULULAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL
25 JULY 2016**

Programme Director
District Municipality Mayor and Councillors
eDumbe Local Municipality and Councillors
Representative of the Provincial Legislature
Mhlathuze Water Representatives
Mhlathuze Water and all Government Officials
Traditional Leaders
Religious Leaders
Community Leaders
Members of the Public
Ladies and Gentlemen

Sanibonani, Molweni, Dumelang, Good Morning

I would like to greet you all on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation, uMhlathuze Water, Zululand District Municipality and eDumbe Local Municipality who are partners in facilitating our drought intervention programmes.

In the past two years the Department has been working in this District Municipality together with KwaZulu-Natal provincial government to ensure a sustainable provision of clean water in the area.

You will all remember that although this District was amongst the first to be declared disaster because of serious water shortages in 2014/2015, the situation worsened in 2015/2016 financial year.

This was the year the whole of South Africa witnessed the worst drought conditions which affected different parts of the nine provinces.

In this part of the country we witnessed rivers and dams that were the main sources of bulk water drying up. The continued scarcity of rain was mostly felt by farmers who could not realize their agricultural products during the harvesting season.

The poor harvest was further coupled by over grazing and shortages of animal food and these resulted in losses of animal life. It was our structured and continued interaction with our external and internal stakeholders in the water sector which enabled the Department of Water and Sanitation to mitigate these severe drought conditions.

Our mitigation measures included water conservation and demand management, surface water resource management, management and use of ground water resources, eradication of invasive alien plants, eradication of illegal water connections, development of surface water resources and building additional storage capacity, rain water harvesting through provision of water tanks in communities, provision of static storage tanks at strategic locations, the carting of water by tankers to communities in distress and investment in new technologies for managing water resource.

A major challenge to planning and implementing the mitigation measures was the fact that this drought slowly reduced the size of the water resources, thus creating a greater demand for water. This means that there was more pressure to deliver quality drinking water. Working with you we will do everything possible and ensure continued provision of water to the One Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Four (157 854) households in the Zululand District Municipality.

In our continued engagements with this District Municipality, we have observed that there are still some communities located very far from water sources especially in the rural areas and informal settlements.

In these communities many people carry water to their homes often over long distances, pay heavy fees for the transportation and this has proved to be time consuming especially to the girl child.

In dealing with this challenge of burdening communities with the provision of water from the dams, rivers and central water taps, the Department has introduced Water on Wheels Technologies and hence these wheel borrows we are distributing today. Together with the provincial government and the district municipality we will distribute these tools to all needy households.

Whilst the Department will continue doing that all water consumers and users need to be conscious of the consequences of their actions with regard to water use. These are some of the Water Saving Tips.

- We must fix leaking taps,
- Reuse water for flushing toilets and gardening,

- Collect water from rain,
- Plant indigenous plants and
- Do not leave taps running when brushing teeth.

This Local Municipality like other municipalities must now set aside eight percent of their operational budgets for the maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure.

Apart from the drought situation, South Africa has been losing water through water leaks due to the continued use of the aged and dilapidated infrastructure and as a result the country has been paying billions of rands a year for non revenue water.

Guided by the President, the department launched the War on Leaks Programme in August 2015 to build the human resource capacity required to mitigate the water losses and ensure provision of qualified plumbers and artisans. Currently about 3000 trainees are undergoing training.

In August 2016 the department will announce the intake of 7000 trainees which will form part of the second phase of the project, and in 2017 a further intake of 5000 trainees will be recruited from the nine provinces.

Though many graduates of the War on Leaks Programme will be placed in the municipalities with high water losses, the Department will encourage government departments, the private sector and other organisations to absorb the new plumbers, artisans and water agents to educate and fight water losses in their operational spaces.

In partnership with all stakeholders we must continue to support the Zululand District Municipality Drought Joint Operation Committee as one of the most important initiatives implemented to manage and mitigate drought impacts in the affected areas of this district.

The Zululand District Municipality Joint Operation Centre must be strengthened through the participation of all water sector partners in the area, the business sector and the academic institutions, non-governmental organization and active involvement of all local municipalities.

So far the Zululand District Municipality Joint Operation Committee came up with the various short term projects looking at ground water, spring protection, fixing leaks, implementation of water restrictions to ensure sustainability and stretch the available water resources in the entire District Municipality.

The Department of Water and Sanitation during the 2015/16 financial year provided Thirty Nine Million Six Hundred and Ninty Three Thousand (R39 693 000.00) drought relief funding to Zululand District Municipality. Amongst the beneficiaries, about Twelve Thousand and Thirty Nine (12 039) households who benefited through water tinkering were from eDumbe.

The Zululand District Municipality at the beginning of 2016/17 financial year reprioritized some of its Municipal Infrastructure Grant funded projects to set aside Twelve Million Eight Hundred and Thirty Two Thousand and Three Hundred and Twenty Eight Rands (R12 832 328.00) to fund the on-going drought interventions. The business plans supported so far covers all the affected local municipalities such as, Abaqulusi, eDumbe, Nongoma and uLundi,

In eDumbe the work involves drilling, testing, and equipping of three boreholes; installation of two Jojo tanks and construction of pipeline in town and the cost to implement this intervention is estimated at Nine Hundred and Eight Thousand and Forty Nine Rands (R908 049.00). This intervention is currently work in progress.

In the area of Mthingane the work includes drilling and testing of two boreholes, equipping of one borehole, installation of one Jojo tank and the construction of pipeline at a cost of Eight Hundred and Three Thousand and Forty Nine Rands (R803 049.00). Please also note that this is still work in progress.

Today the Department of Water and Sanitation is handing over this 80 kilo liter of water reservoir storage to the eDumbe community which will be used to store water and the community will collect water from this reservoir instead of travelling long distances and collecting water in unprotected water sources.

The Zululand District Municipality will be responsible for the filling of this reservoir for the duration of the drought and beyond to ensure an alternative source of water in times of need. The District Municipality in supporting this source of water will drill boreholes to service this reservoir on a daily basis as it may not always be feasible to use water tankers in filling the reservoir. The drilling of the borehole will commence soon as the funds are available to do this work.

The Bivane Dam, a privately owned facility which services agricultural famers is only used for domestic purposes to supply water to uPhongola areas. The Zululand District Municipality together with the Department of Water and Sanitation is investigating a possibility to augment the water supply for eDumbe using the UPhongola River and Bivane Dam. This work is still at feasibility stage and we hope to finish it soon to sustain provision of water.

These different initiatives are aimed at supporting infrastructure rehabilitation and development plans. Through these initiatives we are set to provide water to all and drastically reduce the water backlogs in some parts of the municipality.

It therefore remains our responsibility to protect the infrastructure that is provided in our communities at a huge cost. We are also required to pay for water services supplied to us by the municipality so that we can enable the municipality to rollout infrastructure development to the most rural areas of this District.

What has been achieved so far is a testimony to the fact that unity of purpose, cooperation amongst stakeholders, coordinated planning and team work are key elements to success.

In conclusion as we close this term of local government, I would like to urge all of you to go out in your numbers and vote on the 03 August 2016 so that this municipality will also have leadership that will continue to do this work of improving the quality of life in this area.

I also want to thank all of you in the Zululand District Municipality, eDumbe Local Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation, Umhlathuze Water and all in the Community who have made it possible that we provided water even during the worst drought ever witnessed by South Africa.

I thank you