



## INTERNET ARTICLE

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### **SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT HAVE A WATER CRISIS – Minister Mchunu**

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu has assured South Africans that the country does not have a water crisis.

Minister Mchunu made the remarks at a press briefing in Pretoria on Monday, 15 November 2021 on the scheduled maintenance undertaken by Rand Water.

Minister Mchunu along with Rand Water Board Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer briefed the members of the public through a media briefing on the work done by Rand Water to ensure proper maintenance of water infrastructure, affected areas and the amount of water reduced.

At the presser, Rand Water CEO Sipho Mosai emphasised that the maintenance does not mean that there will be total water outage and added that water users need to be patient as this is just a minor inconvenience that will last for 54 hours. Moreover, he said the maintenance is a necessary inconvenience but it will have lasting solutions to the aging water infrastructure.

Mosai explained that out of the 4,600 million litres of water that Rand Water supplies to Gauteng a day, only 600 million litres a day will be reduced.

“This is not an entire shutdown. This is not a cutting of water. It’s a limited shutdown of a pipe that takes water into one of our purification works. And there are many other pipes that do that. That is why most of the areas, this morning, that may be affected by water still had water, precisely because it’s not a complete shutdown,” said Mosai.

The chairperson of the Rand Water Board Advocate Tshidi Hashatse said that not all maintenance results in water supply interruptions. Hashatse said Rand Water has large infrastructure which means regular maintenance is required to sustain its lifespan.





She reiterated that the reduction of water is not a failure but rather a necessary interruption and that municipalities and relevant parties were consulted ahead of time to ensure they were prepared.

“But more than just maintaining the existing infrastructure, very often we also have to look forward and consider the growth that is happening in our area of supply, growth in terms of population growth, business growth and other kinds of developments that may be happening that would require that we change our methods and our capacity in order to be able to meet that growth or that change in demand”, she said.

Minister Mchunu drove home the message that South Africa is water scarce country and is currently not meeting its water demands.

“South Africa is a water-scarce country. In other words, South Africa has less water than it needs,” said Mchunu.

“If you lift your eyes and say, ‘How much water do we have in the country?’, it will always be less than the demand. But that does not mean we are in a crisis. If we manage the water that we have, water that is available at the moment, we will continue. We will manage everywhere in the country. We will go on well.”

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