



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS host water resilience workshop in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

24 August 2022

In the quest to create water resilience in Nelson Mandela Bay, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in unison with Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMBMM) hosted a Workshop at Coega Vulindlela Conference Centre in Gqeberha Eastern Cape on Tuesday, 23 August 2022.

Various stakeholders from organisations such as Water Research Institute (WRI), World Bank, Cities Support Programme (CSP), South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU), Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU), Amatola Water and government departments converged for the Water Resilience Workshop.

The workshop mainly focussed on; developing diverse sources for augmentation of water supply purposes, creating a sustainable water business, and changing incentives and behaviours.

During the workshop three breakaway commissions were formed and deliberated on how organisations can contribute towards the creation of a water resilience city and ways that can be utilised to harness other resources such as ground water, scaled recycling and desalination of sea water.

Among the notable feedback from the breakaway groups were, introducing punitive measures to the wasteful utilisation of water, establishment of autonomous and well run utilities since political interference is impacting negatively on the completion of projects and incentivising cautious and proper usage of water emerged strongly during the discussions as well as frequent infrastructure audit which needs to be a norm in order to ensure that maintenance takes place.

Councillor Eugene Johnson Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Metro acknowledged and appreciated the commitment of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation towards resolving water challenges in the Eastern Cape particularly the drought hit Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality.

During his engagement with the delegates Minister Mchunu called on residents to comply with water restrictions in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and its surroundings. Minister further indicated that the process of removing alien trees that are said to be consuming a huge amount of water is underway.

Minister Mchunu pointed out two categories of interventions needed to construct a water resilience Nelson Mandela Bay namely; direct and indirect, the direct being the installation of water meters to control usage thereof and the indirect being a public wide awareness campaigns to educate residents about the dire situation facing the city.

Minister Mchunu further emphasised that we are running out of water in Nelson Mandela Bay and Kouga Municipality, everybody in the city must know, understand and accept that we have very little water, this should always be at the back of our mind.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



"When we are taking a bath, we must think about tomorrow, next week and also think about others who need water. We are confronted with a serious challenge and therefore, there is no time to point fingers now, all residents of the city must contribute towards a water resilient Nelson Mandela Bay.

Fhatuwani Tshikulumela and Thandile Ngcume

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