



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Departments speak in one voice regarding water scarcity and drought

13 November 2015

Department of Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane formed part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee(IMC) responsible for drought that briefed the media on the impact of drought and water scarcity on various major industries and interventions undertaken by Government and the private sector collectively. The engagement happened today,13 November 2015,in Pretoria.

The IMC led by Minister of Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs, Pravin Ghordan consisted of Ministers in Environmental Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Development and Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, who all highlighted the role played by their Ministries in combating the situation.

Minister Mokonyane started off her presentation by breaking down the difference between the drought that's currently experienced by most parts of South Africa and water scarcity which has engulfed and disturbed water distribution in Gauteng due to heatwave. "The current water shortages in Gauteng are caused by the high water demand resulting in hot weather conditions putting strain in the province's water resources and not by the drought. Whereas the water shortages in the drought stricken provinces is caused by the El nino phenomenon which casts a dry spell due to below average rainfall".

She added that all major industries are intertwined and linked with water, i.e food, agriculture and energy; hence the joint efforts between the various Departments to battle with the effects of climate change. That, coupled with behavioural change.

Minister Mokonyane more than anything encouraged strong partnerships between all water users as without this all efforts by the Government to contain the crisis will be futile.

While sharing on how the drought caused by the natural El nino phenomenon has affected her Department, Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa stated that the Department has suffered a great blow, especially in the areas of wetlands."Government has noted South Africa's vulnerability to climate change, hence the establishment of National Climate Change Response by the Government which will ensure that such is dealt with".



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Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries Senzo Zokwane encouraged farmers to farm wisely, and requested media to come on board in order to spread the message to the public.

Minister Mokonyane concluded by urging businesses to report any leaking taps and burst pipes as they constitute to R7 billion lost through unaccounted for water.

Maduvha Maseda

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, DWS Director, Media

Liaison: 0828742942

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