



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS provides much-needed relief to drought stricken communities

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is continuing its relief efforts to cushion the impact of water scarcity that is being compounded by extremely hot conditions across the country.

Speaking during a media briefing on 08 September in Parliament, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (GOGTA), Des Van Rooyen said a raft of measures had been taken by the DWS to ensure that communities were not in need of water during this time.

Minister Van Rooyen reiterated government's call to communities to continue respecting restrictions that have been imposed, saying that this was necessary for continued supply of water to communities.

He said: "As part of our on-going drought mitigation measures, the DWS has deployed 63 18 000 litre motorized water tankers. To date some 8 million litres of water have been delivered to approximately 49 200 people in the provinces of the North West, KZN, Free State and the Eastern Cape."

He said over and above the distribution to drought-stricken communities, DWS has embarked on the Drop-the-Block campaign in a bid to reduce water by 2 litres when flushing.

To date nearly 103 000 have been installed in the Northern Cape alone.

DWS Minister Ms Nomvula Mokonyane appealed to communities to adapt to the present situation, urging them to respect water and use it sparingly.

Mokonyane said behavioural change on the part of communities was at the heart of efforts towards water conservation.

She said the establishment of the inter-ministerial committee is the one that has made the country respond proactively to this particular situation, emphasizing that South Africans have become part of finding solutions in this case.

"In KwaZulu-Natal which is now going towards the fourth year of drought, we have been able to deal with this issue working in partnership with the private sector and communities, particularly through the Department of Cooperative Governance in the province," said Minister Mokonyane.

Minster Van Rooyen condemned the destruction of public infrastructure, calling on communities to root out the people alleged to have been part of this.

"The communities must report vandalism and theft of infrastructure to the relevant authorities, said Minister Van Rooyen.

Lucky Makgarengi