



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Groundwater information is essential in drought situations**

*3 February 2016*

*Residents of Limpopo Province have been urged to make sure that they familiarise themselves with groundwater information which is essential to development and management in times of need.*

*This was a message that was delivered to the people of the province by officials of the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) recently during an update on progress regarding the means and efforts put in place to cope under the drought period in the area.*

*Understanding and familiarising one with information and data on groundwater will enable the drought programme manager to immediately identify possible resources at different scenario levels.*

*The first scenario can be to query where boreholes with infrastructure are available, but needing repairs to function.*

*The Groundwater Resource Information Protocol (GRIP) database can also provide information on all villages with regards to sufficient and equipped sources. It also identify where the boreholes are dysfunctional due to mechanical or electrical failure.*

*Residents were told that one of the most and best weapon to beat the drought is to first assess the existing boreholes which require repairs.*

*The second scenario, according to DWS, is to look at all the tested boreholes and sustainable boreholes that are in close proximity of villages with drought. "Application of the above two scenarios priorities 75% of the drought intervention programme and triggers the Water Service Authorities (WSAs), Municipalities, to dispatching of operations and maintenance teams to attend to the known resources as identified by the two scenarios," according to DWS.*

*Currently, there are 26 000 various boreholes records captured on GRIP. GRIP Website is to provide information of excess to available groundwater data.*

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