



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Behavioural change key to mitigating effects of water shortages, says DWS Minister Mokonyane

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There are many ways of dealing with the challenge posed by the drought that the country is currently facing which requires us to adopt simple measures that do not necessarily require a huge budget.

This is the view of the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane that she expressed during a media briefing of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on drought which took place on 08 September in Cape Town.

She said that people should be cognisant that this time last year the country was secured in terms of water but that this year the situation has changed.

“We should not over-exploit what we have. There is a possibility for us to be able to live within what we have and what we are calling for is cooperation, behavioural change and adaptation,” said Minister Mokonyane, adding that behavioural change entails a situation in which when a pipe burst was reported to the municipality it should respond within a reasonable time.

Minister Mokonyane said although the situation was not ideal, there was no need to declare a national state of disaster.

The briefing was held as part of a commitment by the task team to keep the country abreast of developments around the national dam levels and the work that was being carried out to mitigate the dire challenge of water scarcity and drought.

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Des Van Rooyen said regardless of recent rains in some parts of the country the situation remains unchanged.

He said: “Although some areas are receiving rains and flooding is experienced in some provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal, the drought conditions have not improved, the dams across the country are at their lowest in years.”



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Currently the national dam level is sitting at 53.0%, from plummeting 64.3 % this time this year.

To cushion the effects of the drought, Minister Van Rooyen said a number of measures were being implemented by the DWS to ensure that there was a continued supply of water.

“As part of our on-going drought mitigation measures, the Department of Water and Sanitation has deployed 63, 18 000 litre motorised water tankers and to date some 8 million litres of water has been delivered to approximately 49 200 people in the provinces of North West, KZN, Free State and the Eastern Cape,” Minister Van Rooyen said.

Van Rooyen said the drought was expected to continue well into the early summer season as the drought continues to grip most parts of the country.

Hosia Sithole