



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Drought Negatively Affects All

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The drought currently experienced in the country is severe and affects all facets of life. The drought negatively impacts on the country's social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Communities have lost livestock and food production has also been compromised due to the lack of rain. The recent rains that have fallen in some parts of the country have brought much needed relief but this does not mean the worst is over.

Some provinces have not been that lucky and have not received any rain. The situation is still dire in most communities as people have to do with minimal water supply, just enough for survival.

Our natural heritage and environment have not been spared by this devastating drought. The situation in our major natural parks and our major tourist attractions does not look good as the areas are dry. Rivers are literally dry, trees are dry and dead in most parts in our natural parks including the mighty Kruger National Park.

This situation then calls on all of us to play a role in preserving our natural heritage and prevent our animals from perishing in these hot and dry conditions. We need to continue cleaning and keeping our rivers clean to ensure that there is a flow into the parks for the benefit of our natural environment.

Most of our rivers, dams and groundwater resources are drying or have already dried up due to the lack of rain as a result of the drought. Most catchments are experiencing serious challenges in terms of water shortages as well. Communities need to play their part in ensuring that humans and the environment live and survive together through this drought. After all, we are dependent on and need each other.



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We must also ensure that we don't contribute to the death of the animals and environment in the park by polluting our water resources. Water pollution is dangerous and deadly, especially during the drought as the rivers are running low and chances of dilution are very minimal. We need to report all pollution incidents to the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure that the polluters are taken to task and keep our water resources clean at all times.

Water is life. So it is crucial that we conserve the few drops available and share with our natural environment to preserve our natural beauty to attract more tourists for the economic benefits of the country.

Let us hope that the drought has been an eye-opener for most people in the country that ours is a water-scarce country and water is a finite resource if not used sparingly and in a conservative manner. Let us conserve water for ourselves, the natural environment's benefit and future generations.

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