



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Drought Relief Imbizo held at Melmoth with President Zuma and Deputy Minister Tshwete**

04 April 2016

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Pamela Tshwete, together with the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Senzo Mchunu hosted President Jacob Zuma on 03 April 2016 during the Drought Relief Imbizo at the Melmoth Sports Grounds.

The visit by the President at UThungulu District Municipality was meant to monitor the delivery of water services as part of government's efforts to support areas that are severely affected by the drought and to also kick-start the Imbizo Focus Week taking place from 04 – 10 April.

The President received a rousing welcome despite the delay after his helicopter could not land due to bad weather. This was also shown by Nobuhle Zikhali from KwaMagwaza, who said she was happy that the President has visited her home town to hear how much they were struggling which is why she had to brave the rain just to hear Zuma address the community.

Addressing more than 10 000 people, Zuma said "We are gathered here because we have a problem of drought that has affected the whole of South Africa. Drought has not only affected KwaZulu-Natal but provinces such as North West, Free State, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. "

"We know that communities are struggling, there is no water, the dam levels are low. Even if you grow crops, there is little rain. That is why the government has decided to do whatever it needs to do to assist people who are faced with the crisis. There is a lot that government has done and we are still meeting and discussing because drought is still here even though some rains have fallen, " Zuma said.

In February the DWS donated a water tanker to the municipality; the UThungulu District Municipality (UDM) also gave 12 Jojo tanks to Mthonjaneni LM and another 12 to the Thubaletu community.



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The President impressed upon all at the event that it is vital to conserve and preserve water, a precious and finite resource. All infrastructure that delivers the water must also be protected.

**Mbali Mahaye**

**KwaZulu-Natal Department of Water & Sanitation: Communications**