



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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KwaZulu-Natal hosts War on Leaks Workshop with Stakeholders

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The Department of Water and Sanitation KwaZulu-Natal (DWS KZN) together with Rand Water today 26 August 2016 hosted the War on Leaks (WOL) Workshop with stakeholders to foster partnership, align the objectives of the WOL Programme with their plans and to clarify roles and responsibilities of WOL Programme.

The WOL Programme aims to recruit and train a total of 15 000 unemployed artisans, plumbers and water agents over a period of five years. This is in a bid to curb water losses which costs the country R7 billion a year.

“The WOL Programme will enable to provide training opportunities to the unemployed young people who can be trained as water agents, plumbers and artisans to address the infrastructure problem we face. They will be responsible for visiting communities to investigate water leaks and teach people to save water,” Saddle Stone from Rand Water briefly explained.

“The project will follow a three-phased approach that will include the recruitment, training and deployment of the plumbers, artisans and water agents. They will be trained in three phases. Phase 1 will see 3 000 trained in the 2015/2016 financial year, 7 000 in Phase 2 in 2016/2017 and 5000 in Phase 3 in the 2017/2018 financial year” said Gerald Molley.

KZN is significantly affected not only by the drought but also water losses that is costing the province a lot. The rainfall recorded by the department indicates that the rain has not yet yielded expected rainfall, resulting in worsening drought conditions and water scarcity. The WOL Programme serves as a benchmark to other initiatives of producing results that will positively impact on the broader water conservation and water demand management strategies of the country and create employment for thousands of unemployed citizens who eventually will be able to sustain their livelihoods with good honest employment.

Mbali Mahaye