



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane meets with Western Cape Provincial Government to assess the water situation

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Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane met with the Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Environment and Development Planning, Mr Anton Bredell and City of Cape Town senior officials to assess water challenges in Western Cape.

In her opening remarks Mokonyane said “the water challenges forces the government to deal with the realities of climate change”

During the deliberations it became clear that some parts of the Western Cape are experiencing dry season in particular the City of Cape Town. In January 2016, five municipalities in the Western Cape declared drought disasters and these have been followed by a *'local state of disaster due to drought conditions'* declaration by the City of Cape Town in line with section 55 of the Disaster Management Act (Act 57 of 2002).

Water security concerns were also raised during the meeting as Western Cape Water Supply System which supply Cape Town and surrounding areas is currently at 30.95%, a notable decline compared to 38.49% at the same time last year.

As a way forward to mitigate water challenges the following are some of the recommendations tabled during the meeting;

- Establishment of a Restriction Management Committee to closely monitor if water users are achieving the targets of water restrictions
- Intensifying of water conservation campaigns with a common message
- All municipalities need to intensify the implementation of their water conservation demand management which must include leak detection and leak repairs.
- In conjunction with the Western Cape Provincial Government the Department of Water and Sanitation to host Water Indaba/ Forum which will target all the sectors

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