



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water conservation must ensure it's not an expensive commodity

22 September 2016

The present drought situation is an appropriate time to change the mind-set of communities to endeavour to optimise the available water resources so that water does not become a commodity which can be afforded only by the affluent, an official of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) said today, Thursday 22 September 2016.

Speaking at the Khuluma Sizwe Dialogue, which is taking place at Acardia Hotel in Pretoria and organised by the Water Research Commission (WRC), DWS' Integrated Water Resource Management Matome Mahasha said there was a great need to change the perception that as a country we have water in abundance.

The theme for the dialogue was "Water, Our Common Culture".

"When people look at the map what they see is a picture that we are surrounded by water. This is not a true picture of the water that we can use. Freshwater is not in abundance as many people seem to think," said Mahasha.

He said most of the water that people see is not water that can be used in everyday activities.

He said programmes aimed at educating communities should be at the heart of drives to conserve water resources, saying water plays a vitally important role in the lives not only of people but those of other species.

He said: "Water is not something that you just collect. It has an invaluable part in our daily lives and in rural areas water is a matter of life and death. The subject of water is not an isolated matter but it is linked to every other aspect of human life."

Mahasha said communities must become custodians of water resources so that other species are not denied the right to exist, adding that a clean environment was a factor that needs to also be taken into account as it may have an impact on the alternative sources of water such as underground water.

Hosia Sithole