



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

KZN Government determined to get ahead of the tough, drought affected times

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office, with the support of the water boards, is dead set on assisting affected local municipalities combat the aftermath of the drought currently being experienced in some parts of the province. The KZN Regional Office's finance Director, Veronica Mkhize, revealed that the department is looking to spend about R354 million in aiding all local municipalities affected to keep the state of water supply stable and smother panic amongst the communities.

She explained that 80% of the money will be focused on acquiring water tankers which will distribute water for domestic use across the province to areas which are the hardest hit by this unfavourable climatic period. The rest of the 20% will be utilized in the drilling of certain identified spots for groundwater in a bid to increase the number of water sources, to ensure even distribution of water. The water tankers will be a quick and effective solution which will also ensure there will be no illegal water abstractions. The water will be distributed from the tankers directly to the water containers and tanks of the residents.

Mkhize said the DWS will require great cooperation and patience from the municipalities as they await implementation of planned interventions. She highlighted that the planning is approaching its final stages.

The KZN government has also enforced very strict water restrictions during certain times in the day to attempt to keep the level of dams and reservoirs stabilized.

Meanwhile, DWS is urging communities in KZN to use water cautiously and to work hand in hand with the government in ensuring that there is vast protection of the few water resources currently providing water in the affected areas.

The KZN province has for the past twelve months been receiving below average rainfall compared to other provinces. This has resulted in very dry conditions in most parts of the province, with the Umkhanyakude, Umzinyathi, Uthungulu, Umgungundlovu, Uthukhela, Ilembe and Ugu District municipalities being the ones hit the hardest.

Maduvha Maseda

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