



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane reaches out to the people of KwaZulu-Natal

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Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane mingled with residents in some parts of the drought-stricken KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province during a Drought Awareness campaign; this was a way to engage the community members towards finding a solution regarding combating the shortages of water caused by the drought.

She walked through shopping centres and taxi ranks and not only dished out advice on how residents can conserve water but also listened to their suggestions on how government can fight the situation. This she said was because the residents were on the receiving end; they were the ones mostly affected and therefore are more than capable of making contributions.

“We need to work together as custodians of water and water resources to find new innovative solutions; things that haven’t been done before”, she said.

The Minister indicated that she, above most things, wanted to hear first-hand how the impact of the drought was affecting community members as it worsens and how they can work together to lessen its effects through simple lifestyle changes and killing old bad habits towards water consumption.

A greater part of KZN province has been suffering from the infamous drought for a while now and the department together with other water sector stakeholders has since been hard at work to alleviate the aftermath of this natural phenomenon.



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There are currently various intervention programmes being implemented to provide people with water and plans are underway to create alternative water storages to sort out issues of water allocation and distribution.

The Hazelmere Dam which supplies some of the major areas requiring sustainable supply of water in KZN has been dealt a heavy blow as a result of the drought, with its level estimated to be at a critical 27%. Minister Mokonyane announced that there will be a project to raise the dam wall to increase its storage capacity for when it rains.

Mokonyane concluded her day in KZN with a prayer session for rain at the Hazelmere Dam ground joined by local priests and religious groups.

Maduvha Maseda