



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

MPUMALANGA DROUGHT INTERVENTIONS

01 February 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation, Mpumalanga Provincial Office is currently drilling, equipping and refurbishing boreholes as part of its interventions to assist municipalities to deal with the current devastating drought. Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality is the major beneficiary as it has been allocated R10 million through the Water Services Operating Subsidy.

In terms of food security, the Department is also assisting emerging farmers by installing rainwater harvesting tanks. So far, 92 water tanks have been installed at a cost of R945 071.30.

Low rainfall over the current rainy season has resulted in a drastic drop in the storage capacity of dams in the Mpumalanga Province. The lack of rain has resulted in a major drop as the storage capacity has dropped from 92.8 million cubic metres last January to 61.7 million cubic metres at the same time this year. This is attributed to the devastating drought experienced throughout the country. Despite the intermittent thundershowers, water levels continue to decline. This can also be attributed to the heatwave associated with the El Nino phenomenon.

All the municipalities in the province are affected by the devastating drought with nine municipalities extremely affected, five severely affected and four mildly affected. Due to the situation, the drought disaster was declared in the Mpumalanga Province in November 2015.

Water restrictions have been imposed in the Inkomati Catchment and many municipalities are implementing water restrictions to compel residents to use water sparingly. The Department urges the public to use the little available water sparingly and wisely and ensure that we all practise water conservation in all facets of our life as water is life.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

For more information contact: Masala Mulaudzi on 082 327 5886

For further enquiries: Themba Khoza on 082 600 5666

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:
www.dwa.gov.za