



INTERNET ARTICLE

South Africa is prone to drought resulting in waiting long periods without water – DM

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The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Pamela Tshwete, says water should be considered an essential resource much required in people's lives.

Addressing an enthusiastic crowd at Laingsburg in the Western Cape on Tuesday, 7 October 2014 during the War on Leaks Campaign, the Deputy Minister made the point that there are many challenges that affect water, adding that this country is prone to drought where "we may run without water for very long periods. The climate change conditions are putting a great strain on the rainy season."

The Deputy Minister explained that the country is also faced with the pollution of rivers that constitute water catchment areas. "Water pollution is a huge challenge and it makes it very difficult and expensive to purify the water resource. In some communities car owners wash their cars in the river," said the Deputy Minister.

"We therefore cannot afford to lose the water resource that has been purified for consumption. Let us join hands and declare War on Leaks and save our water resource. We need to identify an army of soldiers who will be at the forefront of this campaign. These community soldiers must be found in all the streets and sections of this community. These community soldiers must work with the water section in the municipality. As we embark on this campaign the municipality must help provide the necessary resources," Deputy Minister Tshwete said.

She told residents of Laingsburg that DWS, through this campaign, urges the municipality to create jobs, save water and give life to the people. "With this campaign properly and successfully managed we can save thousands and thousands of litres of water. When we save water we save money," she said.

She called on the community to do an audit of the area, visit public institutions such as schools, community health centres and churches to detect any leaks that could be found. "This act should begin with our homes where we will visit the entire neighbourhood and assist the elderly and the vulnerable groups, ensuring that there are no leaks in their homes. We need to save water so that we can connect areas where water is not connected. We must save water so that we could utilise it in other areas of need such as community swimming pools and community gardens. The more we lose water the more the provision of other community facilities becomes distant and impossible to achieve," said the DM.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that War on Leaks is also about maintenance of the environment and cleanliness. "In nowadays we spend money on grass cutting caused by many swamps found in our communities as a result of dampness caused by water leaks," she added.

She concluded by noting that the War on Leaks Programme was adopted by the Department after realising the amount of water that "we lose through leakages. Nationally we lose 40% of our water resources. If we lose 40% this means the country loses money and time spent on salaries."



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