



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# INTERNET ARTICLE

## South Africans warned of possible water cuts

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South Africa is one of the water scarce countries in the world.

*South Africans may end up facing regular water cuts if people continue to use water irresponsibly.*

*Speaking at the World Water Week (WWW) conference in Stockholm in Sweden last week, the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) Minister, Nomvula Mokonyane, said water scarcity is real.*

*More than 3 000 delegates attended the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the water conference in the Swedish capital at the end of August. Delegates representing governments and other role players were engaged in talks aimed at finding solutions to challenges related to water management, supply and distribution.*

*In a media statement released this week, organisers of the WWW note that during a discussion on Sustainable Development Goals, Swedish Minister for Development and Cooperation, Isabella Lovin, told delegates that poverty alleviation can never be achieved until water problems have been addressed.*

*"We cannot eradicate poverty without addressing the environmental challenges. Water pollution and water scarcity is one of those challenges, closely linked to climate change because of the warming of the planet. We will see more drought and melting glaciers, so we will see water scarcity. But if we do not have sustainable supplies of water, there will be enormous challenges for the world to rise out of poverty," she noted.*

*At the conference, Minister Mokonyane warned that water restrictions could be on the cards. She said this was bound to happen if people continue using water recklessly. "We will reach water restrictions as we have already seen*



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*what happened in KwaZulu-Natal and in some parts of the Western Cape. What we can do to avoid a situation of water restrictions is change of behaviour, which we can do through awareness campaigns. The change of infrastructure and the sources of water are also important. We also need to save water which we continue losing through leaks."*

*Water pricing has been discussed as one of the measures that could be used to compel people to save water.*

*"South Africa, together with Sweden, led a workshop on water pricing, trying to stress that there are different ways of water pricing around the world, which aim at changing people from wasteful behaviours. So putting our heads together will make us able to put a couple of models together," says Chief Executive Officer of the Water Research Commission in South Africa, Dhesigen Naidoo.*

*African delegates are looking forward to learning about news and best practices in water management. "The water situation in Nigeria is challenging like it is in most parts of Africa. We have very old infrastructure. We also have to deal with issues of quality water treatment and distribution. Basically that's why you find a lot of representatives from Africa here in Stockholm. So it is a lot of learning, we can get a lot of best practices from several other countries like South America," said the Managing Director of the Port Harcourt Water Cooperation in Nigeria, Kenneth Anger.*

**Ike Motsapi**