



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

eThekwini Metro introduces water rationing measures

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The plunging water levels at Hazelmere Dam outside Durban are at the centre of a water crisis in and around the city. eThekwini Municipality has introduced water rationing measures to ensure equitable water supply in towns around Durban.

According to Lennox Mabaso of COGTA in KwaZulu-Natal, his department is seriously thinking of desalinating sea water to augment the fast dwindling precious resource. Desalination was mooted before by ILembe District Council, but idea was abandoned due to the high costs involved.

The dire situation has led to various religious groups in Durban calling for a prayer day for rain. Last Sunday a group of Muslims in Phoenix took with them six sheep to a mountain to pray for rain for humans and animals.

The severe drought that started in October 2015 with not a drop of rain, led to the Provincial Government declaring 10 district municipalities as disaster areas to enable them to receive financial and material assistance. Most of these municipalities started introducing water restrictions with the hope that there will be rainfalls later.

With the situation getting worse and affecting parts of Durban, eThekwini Municipality last week introduced water rationing measures in an attempt to alleviate the situation. Areas affected by the latest measures include:

- Verulam
- Waterloo
- Ottawa
- Ballito
- Westbrook
- Ryad
- Missionlands
- Mount Moreland
- La Mercy
- Oaklands
- Parkgate
- Redcliffe
- Templevalley
- Sibaya Casino
- Cottonlands

The supply to affected areas is isolated to six hours daily as the city is on a 30% restricted supply by Umgeni Water. Restrictions will progress to 50% in coming weeks to extend the supply for as long as possible.

By Themba Khumalo