



INTERTNET ARTICLE

City of Cape getting full support from DWS, says Mr Balzer

25 January 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation has done everything it could to assist the Western Cape province not to run out of water as drought is not relenting.

This pronouncement was made by the Deputy Director-General responsible for Strategic and Emergency Projects in the Department, Mr Trevor Balzer during an interview with Power FM in the morning of Thursday, 25 January 2018.

He said plans have always been in place from as far as 2005 to ensure that residents of Western Cape continue to benefit from their basic right of accessing clean and safe water.

“We have been working closely with the Western Cape Provincial Government, City of Cape Town as well as a number of cross sectoral stakeholders for a number of years to plan for water security. Through the process of planning there is a Steering Committee in place which monitors the implementation and the agreed plan of actions. This work started in 2005, by putting together a 25 year plan of action to ensure that by 2020 the City of Cape Town and Western Cape are water secure”.

Adding to this, Mr Balzer said, climate change projections, scenario planning which is based on historical records and weather projections have to a certain extent allowed them to put together a plan that spans for 25 years however, the current drought is the strongest drought in the 100 year record.

In devising plans to ensure that the National government fulfil its mandate of securing water supply, a number of augmentation projects including the raising of the dam walls as well as picking up of the winter storm flows from the Berg River and pumping into the Voelvlei Dam have commenced.

Moreover, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane has despatched a team of specialists from two entities, namely Umgeni Water and Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority to assist the City with various options such as desalination of sea water.

In addition he said, in order to avoid Day Zero which is said to come 9 days earlier than the predicted day, Capetonians need to reduce their water consumptions by at least 25% immediately. To achieve this all residents will have to adhere to the Level 6 Water Restrictions which among other prescripts requires residents to use no more than 87 litres of municipal drinking water per person per day.

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