



INTERNET ARTICLE

MK Veterans urged to assist DWS to discourage illegal water connections

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Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) Military Veterans are called upon to actively prevent the wanton use of water and to encourage communities to refrain from all forms of illegal water use including illegal connections, the Department of Water and Sanitation urged the veterans during a consultative meeting in the OR Tambo District in Mthatha.

The two-day consultative meeting took place from 19- 20 February 2018.

During the meeting, the Department informed and educated the former military operatives about the importance of saving water in their communities, stressing that the current situation of lower than normal rainfalls required a change in behaviour.

The OR Tambo District is one of the hotspots that the Department is currently dealing with due to a high number of water challenges.

Ms Noludwe Ndwele who is a community member from Dindili in Bizana said: "In my community the reservoir is wasting a lot of water and as result people are not using taps and instead use the reservoir as a tap. Water is coming out from all over but the nearby communities are struggling to receive it."

The DWS was alerted to the matter and promptly attended to it. The local municipality as the relevant authority is now working to resolve the problem.

Mr Silulami Soxa from the Mdibanisweni Administrative Area said there was no water in his area as taps ran dry in 2017, saying the Mhlontlo Local Municipality was aware of the challenge.

He said the community was now depended on water tanks and that there was no water harvesting because of lack of rain.

"We are asking the Department to assist us in this matter. Moreover, even taps are now beginning to be damaged," appealed Mr Soxa.

An MK veteran from Bawa location in Ntabankulu, Mr Lwandile Nganu, said despite the fact that they were having a water scheme in their areas there was no water coming out. He also appealed to the Department to intervene.

The Department advised members of MK veterans to save water, report water leaks and to refrain from illegal connections.

The Departmental officials issued information pamphlets with departmental toll free number 0800 200 200 to encourage direct interaction with the veterans.

Lameki Jumba