



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Communities urged to protect water infrastructure to ensure effective water supply

18 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Limpopo has called on communities in provinces to take good care of the water infrastructure in their areas and stop damaging it.

This comes after the community of Finale (The Oaks, in the Maruleng Local Municipality) burnt and damaged departmental vehicles and other machines on the construction site belonging to the department because they were protesting.

The Department's Regional Head in Limpopo, Mr Lesiba Tloubatla, is appealing to the people of the province to respect the infrastructure that is helping in making sure that they have running water.

"We call on communities not to damage departmental infrastructure during protest actions. What we saw in the community of Finale in the Maruleng Local Municipality is very disturbing to say the least. People should learn to understand that government property belongs to them, and they need to take care of it", said Mr Tloubatla.

He added that everyone has a right to protest when they are not satisfied with the services they are getting from government; however, the vandalism of infrastructure cannot be condoned.

"Some parts of the province are experiencing water shortages due to drought and we try to put resources in place to ensure that our systems do not fail. When people vandalise and damage our infrastructure, it will cost us more to replace it and water provision to communities will be affected", he emphasised.

The areas such as Modimolle and other parts are currently water stressed, therefore everyone is needed to play their role in ensuring that we protect our infrastructure, thereby protecting our water resources for generations to come.

The province's average dam levels this week are at 77.2%, which shows a slight increase compared to last week's 76.3%. Water users in the province are encouraged to play their role in saving water to ensure that we do not run out of water.



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The Water Management Area for Limpopo reflects a deep decline compared to last year this time in which water levels were at 90.3%, whereas now it is at 78.4 %; and in the Olifants, it is now at 75.0% - quite an improvement compared to last year's 73.7%.

The Polokwane Water Supply Systems is at 99.0 %, showing an improvement when compared to 97.1% last week. The Luvuvhu Water Supply Systems also has improved, sitting at 99.6 % compared to 99.0% from last week. The water level at Nandoni Dam currently stands at 101, 26% this week, which brings relief to communities.

Whereas Ebenezer Dam is at 92.47% this week, whilst Tzaneen Dam has declined to 45.45% from last week's 45, 49% - which is a concern.

Mokolo Dam slightly increased by 1.57%, from 85.92% last week to 87.49% this week, and De Hoop Dam is currently sitting at 95.08%, which brings relief to communities that are supplied by the dam.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation in Limpopo

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