



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS working around the clock to ensure that Northern Cape residents do not run out of water

12 June 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation has noted the article titled “**NC region in ‘serious trouble’**” published by Diamond Field Advertiser (DFA) on Friday, 08 June 2018.

The article is alleging that Northern Cape’s two hundred boreholes have dried up as the water table has decreased substantially.

Ground water levels have been monitored throughout the province during this drought period and the department wishes to advise that the article is not true and misleading to suggest that boreholes have dried up. While there is a sign of decline in water levels in some areas but that does not in any way mean that there is an immediate danger of running out of water.

The most severe decrease was seen in Rebelskop borehole, where its water level decreased by approximately ten (10) meters, bringing it to 37 meters. This borehole is pumped for no more than three to four hours a day to allow time for recovery. All other boreholes are also being managed carefully to prevent over-abstraction.

Currently two additional boreholes, previously kept in reserve, will be brought online by the end of July to provide additional raw drinking water to the town, funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. Given the aforementioned, the domestic water supply of Sutherland is secure for the immediate future.

The main challenge that we are facing currently is in the agricultural sector and the department working with other stakeholders is attending to it as a matter of urgency.

In alleviating the agricultural challenges, disaster funding totaling R127 million for the provision and transportation of livestock feed was allocated to Namakwa and Pixley ka Seme Districts in March 2018, and is set to be transferred in three tranches, throughout 2018/19. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development manages disaster funding, including the provision of stock water and fodder, in the province.

Despite currently having a sufficient domestic water supply, water users are urged to conserve water and adhere to any water restrictions at all times.

The Department of Water and Sanitation will continue to work with all the stakeholders in the water sector to ensure that our communities do not run out of water.

End

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For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison at 082 874 2942

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