



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Tapping into groundwater as an alternative water source

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South Africa is a water scarce country and, with climate change being a reality, water resources are dwindling and surface water is becoming more limited. The normal water resources – such as rivers, streams, and wetlands – are getting depleted. This then calls for the need to look at groundwater as an alternative to ensure we don't run out of this precious resource.

Climate change is negatively affecting South Africa's water resources as increasing temperatures result in increased evaporation and thus less surface water. Groundwater then becomes important as there is little to no water lost through evaporation.

The Department of Water and Sanitation has embarked on an awareness campaign to highlight the importance of groundwater as a critical alternative for basic use of water under the theme "Making the invisible, visible".

The Master Plan on Water and Sanitation hopes to achieve a change in the water mix through increased groundwater use as most of South Africa's groundwater is of potable quality. The Master Plan also notes that achieving water security in South Africa requires a significant paradigm shift that focuses on demand management and alternative sources of water, groundwater being one of these.

To ensure that groundwater contributes to water security in the country, it is crucial to protect groundwater sources. Acid mine drainage and sewer spillages negatively affect groundwater resources, so it is critical for everyone to prevent the pollution of the groundwater resources to ensure water security in this water scarce country. Let us protect, conserve and use groundwater in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all and water security for the current and future generations in the face of climate change.

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