



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## Water Month activities in Northern Cape

28 March 2019

As the water month campaign draws to a close, the Department of Water and Sanitation would like to advise water users that water conservation efforts need to be enhanced.

The Department also reaffirms its commitment to ensure that adequate water infrastructure is developed so that water is accessible to everyone.

This is to meet the ideals as set out in the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 6 of ensuring that there is water for everyone by 2030. This will realise the World Water Day theme, leaving no one behind.

Currently, more than 3 million people in South Africa still do not have access to basic water supply, especially the marginalized groups such as women, children and people living with disability.

During Water Month, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) focused efforts on water conservation and sustainability as South Africans currently consume more water per capita at approximately 237 litres per day. This is more than the world average of approximately 173 litres per day. This volume needs to decrease if we are to have a sustainable water supply for now and future generations.

The campaign was therefore characterised by community door to door campaigns, schools visits and education and awareness outreaches.

Water security is one of the biggest challenges facing South Africa especially in the face of climate change and the degradation of wetlands including water resources. Social and economic growth also poses a serious challenge on water sustainability.



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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South Africa needs an integrated approach comprising of all role players including water users and sector players at national, provincial and local government, knowledge institutions, water boards, water user associations, catchment management agencies, private sector, development partners, business and civil society as well as community based organizations and institutions of higher learning.

To achieve this, DWS hosted various consultation meetings to get the input of all stakeholders in preparation for “Operation Phakisa.”

The Northern Cape is still to host the Consultation Meeting on Friday, 29 March 2019. Under scrutiny will be the Water and Sanitation Master Plan which seeks to achieve the following key objectives:

- Resilient and fit-for-use water supply
- Universal water and sanitation provision
- Equitable sharing and allocation of water resources
- Effective infrastructure management, operation and maintenance
- Improved raw water quality management

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942 or Amogelang Moholoeng on 082 653 1682**

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