



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DROUGHT

MEDIA BRIEFING

**MS NOMVULA MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

Date: 13 November 2015

Water Scarcity vs Drought

- **Drought** is prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, usually over more than one season;
- It should be noted that South Africa is an arid country, one of the 30 driest countries in the world;
- South Africa experiences drought conditions on a cyclical basis, on average, every 10 years;
- Drought conditions are assessed annually, at the start of the hydrological calendar.

- **Water scarcity** on the other hand, is a shortage of water and it occurs when the demand for water outweighs the supply of water;
- Gauteng is now experiencing water scarcity due to persistent high temperatures , leading to an increase in demand for water, coupled with a high evaporation rate from water in reservoirs;
- This causes stress on the supply systems and ultimately a system breakdown, as has been experienced this past week.

Water Security

- South Africa is a naturally water strained country; annual average rainfall of 464mm as compared to a global average of 860mm;
- Regional water supply dams and schemes remain water secure and are sitting with a positive water balance, with the national average dam level currently sitting at 64,3%;
- As already stated, five provinces have since declared drought related disasters. These are the provinces of North-West, Kwazulu-Natal, Free State and most recently, the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces;
- Drought currently affects 173 of the 1628 water supply schemes nationally, serving approximately 2.7million households or 18% of the total national population;

Provincial storage levels

| Summary Provinces | Full Supply Capacity 10 ⁶ M ³ | Water in Storage 10 ⁶ M ³ | Last Year %Full | Last Week %Full | This Week %Full |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| EC Eastern Cape | 1826.3 | 1432.0 | 75.6 | 78.8 | 78.4 |
| FS Free State | 15971.2 | 10781.5 | 78.8 | 68.7 | 67.5 |
| G Gauteng | 114.8 | 96.4 | 92.1 | 85.2 | 84.0 |
| KN Kwazulu-Natal | 4668.7 | 2724.4 | 74.4 | 59.2 | 58.4 |
| L Lesotho | 2376.2 | 1349.8 | 55.8 | 57.4 | 56.8 |
| LP Limpopo | 1507.8 | 1081.1 | 83.9 | 72.6 | 71.7 |
| M Mpumalanga | 2520.5 | 1780.4 | 84.6 | 71.5 | 70.6 |
| NC Northern Cape | 145.5 | 111.8 | 91.9 | 75.7 | 76.8 |
| NW North West | 807.4 | 433.0 | 65.9 | 54.8 | 53.6 |
| S Swaziland | 333.8 | 182.4 | 81.9 | 57.0 | 54.7 |
| WCo Western Cape - Other rainfall | 272.9 | 175.1 | 72.1 | 64.8 | 64.2 |
| WCw Western Cape - Winter rainfall | 1580.2 | 1125.1 | 92.0 | 72.3 | 71.2 |
| WC Western Cape - Total | 1853.1 | 1300.2 | 89.0 | 71.2 | 70.2 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 32125.3 | 21273.0 | 77.4 | 67.2 | 66.2 |

Drought Interventions

- R 352,6 million initially and an additional R 96, 6 million set aside to intensify and mitigate the effects of drought in KZN
- The resources as allocated have been utilized for the following:
 - Water Tankering - purchased forty-five, 18, 000 litre water tankers for use in the distribution of water to affected areas;
 - Borehole Drilling and Rehabilitation;
 - Water Conservation and Demand Management;
 - Water Source Augmentations.
- **In North West**, the Department has partnered with the Provincial government on targeted interventions in the Madibeng and Ngaka Modiri Molema Municipalities to improve water and sanitation management and reinstate dysfunctional infrastructure. An amount of R184,2 million and R147 million respectively has been allocated for the two municipalities
- **In the Free State** as with the other Provinces we will continue to use our existing funding vehicles such as RBIG, MWIG, WSOS, ACIP and MWIG to support municipalities to increase resilience in water supply.
- Rand water and the three Gauteng metros are co-ordinating their operations on a daily basis and are currently finalising a recovery plan to replenish the affected reservoirs and water towers.
- Special arrangements are being made to provide tankers to supply: hospitals, old age homes, schools and communities more affected by water scarcity

Water Use

- This year's high demand for water due to high temperatures, has lasted for more than a month, which is far longer than anticipated and out of the norm.
- Reservoir status has reached very low levels.
- To illustrate the pressures on the system currently for Gauteng in particular, I wish to share the following:
 - Water Production - Normally, the Rand Water system pumps 4, 664 ml/d as opposed to the 4, 882 ml/d currently
 - Water Demand - The same system has a usual demand from consumers of 4, 489 ml/d which is currently 4, 900 ml/d with the highest recorded recently being 5, 008 ml/d.
 - Lastly, ordinarily the system stores 5, 812 ml/d however current storage is 1, 943 ml/d based on the pressure explained above on the production and demand.

Pollution

- All waste water treatment works are currently subjected to conditional assessments; addressing structural and procedural deficiencies within the waste water sector.
- Continuous water quality sampling and monitoring is taking place.
- In addition to the above, there is great focus on combating pollution in the rivers of South Africa, especially the Vaal River.
- Action will be taken against those Local Authorities who are failing to maintain and operate water and waste water treatment works; whilst receiving conditional grants;
- The Department will continue creating awareness on pollution and the effects and impacts on water resources and environment.

South Africa to unite for efficient water use

- Significant rainfalls are expected only in 2016;
- Some tips for water saving are:
 - Fix leaking taps, toilets and pipes;
 - Use grey water for flushing toilets and gardening;
 - Collect water from rainfall/rain water harvesting
 - Close the tap when brushing teeth or shaving;
 - Use a bucket to wash cars;

#SaveWater

THANK YOU



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA