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Enquiries: Dr Mmaphaka Tau

E-mail: MmaphakaT@ndmc.gov.za

Extension: 0128484601/02

**REPORT ON SHORT AND LONG TERM DROUGHT INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE AND THE DISPERSAL OF DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDING TO THE PROVINCE.**

# PURPOSE

To apprise the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation on:

* 1. The short and long-term drought intervention measures and strategies in the Western Cape Province
  2. The dispersal of relief funding to the Western Cape Province.

1. **BACKGROUND**
   1. The Country experienced drought in the past three years, which was driven by below normal rainfall experienced in 2014/15, which persisted until 2016/17 in many parts of the country. During early 2017, the northern and eastern parts of the country received rainfall, which brought relief to the drought and water shortage conditions whereby reasonable increase in dam levels were recorded in areas such as Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.
   2. Despite positive developments cited above, drought is persisting in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape provinces due to persistent below normal rainfalls. Although in July 2017 the western parts of the country received some rains due to successive cold frontal systems passing the southern extremities of the country, the western parts of the country still recorded low levels of dams with a consequent threat on the production, economic, social and environmental systems in the province.

2.3. In response to the situation, the DWS in collaboration with the Western Cape Government held a Water Indaba on 16 May 2017 and resolutions from the Indaba were adopted for implementation. Additionally, on 27 June 2017, Premier Helen Zille, Provincial Ministers as well as Mayors from across the Western Cape, have signed a Municipal Declaration about long-term water security for the province. The declaration is the result of the outcomes of the Western Cape Water Indaba that was held on 16 May 2017.

2.4. The declaration subscribes to seven key points that include:

* + Enhancing Water Conservation efforts including adopting Water Sensitive Urban Design planning principles to permanently reduce the per capita demand on the water resources;
  + Reducing water leakages;
  + Recognising the need to manage groundwater wisely;
  + Diversifying water supply;
  + Protecting the quality and integrity of water resources;
  + Legislative overhaul in areas where needed; and
  + Driving water innovation.

2.5. The Western Cape Province and several municipalities have demonstrated their commitment to implementing part of the Declaration such as enforcing their by-laws to regulate water usage by all users and creating awareness amongst the users through different platforms.

1. **DISCUSSION**

3.1 In line with the Disaster Management Act 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) coordinates an integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures to reduce risk from all hazards and, this context, drought and water shortages affecting the country.

3.2 Since the outbreak of drought, extraordinary measures are continuously being implemented by relevant role players for mitigation and recovery from the conditions. Key stakeholders such as the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the National Treasury, the Government Communication and Information System the Department of Social Development (DSD) and its agency, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) are coordinated by the DCOG through the NDMC to ensure integrated and coordinated response within the country.

3.3 Assistance was also made available to the affected provinces through the reprioritisation of resources by sectors, municipalities and provinces from existing programmes budgets during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. In order to augment the resources made available by organs of state through the reprioritisation processes, the department made available funding from the Emergency Disaster Grants for implementation of intervention measures in affected provinces including the persisting drought conditions in the Western Cape Province. As stated above (see item 2.1), there are currently noticeable improvements in drought conditions due to considerable amount of rainfall received in some provinces.

3.4 According to the SAWS’s Weather Report presented at the National Joint Drought Coordinating Committee (NJDCC) on 02 October 2017, **the current predictions indicate a high likelihood for a weak La Niña to develop during the early and mid-summer months (Nov-Dec-Jan and Dec-Jan-Feb).** Additionally, the forecasts indicate enhanced likelihood for wetter conditions during early summer over central and eastern parts. **Notable is that there is no relief from the drought for the Western Cape Province as the winter rainfall season has drawn to an end**. It should however be emphasized that the drive currently is to focus on implementing adaptation measures to mitigate against adverse impacts of drought and water shortage conditions particularly on water use and conservation management measures. Cognisant of the contents of the SAWS’s Weather Report, organs of state are required to prepare multi-hazard seasonal contingency plans to ensure emergency preparedness and timely response to disasters. These plans fit into the provincial multi-hazards contingency plan, which is being employed to manage multi risk conditions in the province.

3.5 At national level the NJDCC facilitated by the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) through the NDMC continues to coordinate and facilitate implementation of focused intervention and adaptation measures. The following stakeholders i.e. DWS, National Treasury, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), DAFF, DRDLR, DEA, SAWS, DSD, SASSA and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) form part of the committee. It meets on a monthly basis to monitor the implementation of the intervention, adaptation measures and the drought situation as a whole. The Committee reports to the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) on drought and water scarcity made up of Ministers whose departments are affected by drought and is chaired by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Des Van Rooyen.

**4. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF short and medium term DROUGHT INTERVENTIONs**

4.1 The department through the NDMC established institutional systems to ensure a well-coordinated and integrated response to the drought conditions. Accordingly, drought is treated as an emergency, which needs to be responded to timeously due to its far-reaching socio-economic impact it has to the lives of the people and the environment. As a result, the NDMC provides immediate relief to implement short-term interventions, through its funding mechanisms in the form of the Emergency Relief Grant to assist affected organs of state in cases where their resources from existing progammes and streams are depleted. Therefore, the affected organs of state make provisions within their existing programmes to implement long-term drought interventions measures. The NDMC through the NJDCC is monitoring implementation of long-term interventions in the interest of sustained disaster risk reduction. The DCOG also provides the technical support through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA).

4.2. As indicated above, the NDMC through the NJDCC coordinated and mobilised resources during 2016/17 financial year through the reprioritisation process to address the effects of drought. Significant contributions were made by relevant organs of state, including civil society and the private sector to respond to the immediate needs of the communities. The section below outlines the applicable short and long-term interventions.

5. **SHORT TERM DROUGHT INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

5.1 During the 2016/17 financial year, the NDMC through the NJDCC facilitated and coordinated the implementation of the following short-term interventions:

* Drilling and equipping of boreholes;
* Re-equipping and refurbishing of boreholes;
* Implementation of water restriction systems for domestic, agricultural (irrigation) and Industrial use;
* Issuing of directives to Water Services Authorities and water users not in compliance to restrictions published (Gazetted), and;
* Continuous awareness campaigns on water conservation.

5.2 The department through the NDMC facilitated disaster funding through the National Treasury to augment the depleted resources, which were mobilised by line function organs of state to implement intervention measures after the reprioritisation process. An amount of **R553 million** was allocated by the National Treasury during October 2016 for the provision and transportation of livestock feed within the agriculture sector and for procurement of the mobile desalination plant, water tankering and storage within the water sector.

5.3 Notable is that, out of R553 million, the DWS was allocated R341.3 million to address drought and water scarcity situation, whereas DAFF was allocated an amount of R212 million for the provision and transportation of livestock feed within farming communities. The reports from both DWS and DAFF indicates that the implementation of intervention measures from the allocation has been finalized.

Table 3: The details for the allocation of R341 million to DWS for drought intervention measures (October 2016).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **PROVINCES** | **PROJECTS** | **AMOUNT**  **(October 2016)** |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal | Mobile Desalination Package Plant | R290.7 million |
|  | Eastern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal, Free State, North West | Water tankering and storage | R50.6 million |
| **Total amount** | | | **R341.3 million** |

\* It should be noted that the reports from DWS indicate that the department further made available own funding to augment the allocation regarding water tankering and storage.

Table 4: The details for the allocation of R212 million to DAFF for drought intervention measures (October 2016).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **PROVINCE** | **PROJECTS** | **AMOUNT**  **(October 2016)** |
|  | Eastern Cape | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R29 million |
|  | Free State | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R31 million |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R23 million |
|  | Limpopo | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R28 million |
|  | Northern Cape | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R25 million |
|  | Mpumalanga | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R26 million |
|  | North West | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R38 million |
|  | Western Cape | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R12 million |
| **Total amount** | | | **R212 million** |

# 6. LONG-TERM DROUGHT INTERVENTIONS

6.1 According to Section 19 of the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, the NDMC is expected to provide support to each organ of state and relevant entities to develop, regularly update and review their disaster management plans and strategies. The organs of state are required to align their strategies and plans, which therefore calls for each organ of state to institutionalise and mainstream disaster risk reduction into their departmental programmes. It is important to note that the NDMC had to that effect published disaster management guidelines during May 2017 to assist organs of state in developing their disaster management plans.

6.2 Of particular importance is the emphasis of climate change adaptation measures that are required to be incorporated into the disaster management plan for each organ of state plan. The incorporation of climate change adaptation measures into disaster management plans places emphasis on prevention, mitigation and emergency preparedness with an aim to promote disaster risk reduction and build resilience among communities and infrastructure.

6.3 In this regard, the long-term drought intervention measures and strategies should be incorporated within relevant plans for DWS and Water Service Authorities, particularly within their Water Services Development Plans. However, the DCOG is supporting the water sector in implementing long-term interventions through Municipal Grant Funding programme and provision of technical support through Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency. The NDMC through the NJDCC is monitoring the situation on the ground and intervenes as and when required. The following are long-term drought interventions to mitigate and reduce the impact of drought that organs of state, amongst others, are implementing at different levels:

* Implementation of water harvesting within urban and rural areas, i.e. building packages that includes static tanks to harvest water. The project is implemented in some provinces such as Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.
* Preservation, rehabilitation and protection of ecological infrastructure such as wetlands, estuaries, etc. for water harvesting.
* Eradication of illegal water use, e.g. enforcement in the river systems.
* Desilting of dams and canals, where feasible.
* Building of dams where catchment resources are required to avoid water running into the sea.
* Encourage water ‘buffering’ through improved land management practices.
* Review requirements for non-consumptive water uses, considering re-use of grey water, etc.
* Investment in new technologies, improving water utilisation and productivity.
* Intensive promotion of, and support to all projects under the Water Conservation and Water Demand Management programmes like the Drop-a-Block campaign and the War on Leaks projects as managed by Water Services Authorities.
* Repair of water infrastructure within the Water Service Authority areas.
* Support and coordinate protective works to safeguard springs and open water resources.
* Eradication of alien plants that consume more water through the Working for Water programme.
* Continuous advocacy and public awareness programmes supported by research.

6.4. Importantly, is the fact that an integrated approach in this regard is being coordinated to ensure maximisation of resources and expertise. To this end, adaptation measures are being implemented by different sectors and role players to mitigate the drought impact with the focus being on water conservation and demand management measures.

6.5 It is also worth reporting that the IMTT on drought chaired by Minister of COGTA: Mr Des Van Rooyen has approved a Communication Strategy on drought facilitated and coordinated by the GCIS through a sub Task Team. The Communication sub task team comprises all relevant organs of state and coordinates communication related matters to ensure a structured approach related to communications on drought related matters within government. The task team also facilitates press release and media statements and briefing sessions to ensure that key drought and water conservation messages as well as intervention measures by government and other role players are consistently disseminated to the public and create awareness within the country.

7. **STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS THE DROUGHT SITUATION**

The following strategies are being put in place to address the water scarcity and drought situation in the province:

* Implementation of by-laws to enforce water restrictions. Currently the City of Cape Town has instituted Level 5 water restrictions to all users whereby the failure to comply constitutes an offence in terms of the City of Cape Town’s By- laws:
* Repairs of infrastructure to prevent water leakages.
* Awareness campaigns in the municipalities through different platforms within communities and communication mechanisms.

8. **PROGRESS ON DISBURSEMENT OF THE ALLOCATED EMERGENCY DISASTER GRANT TOTALLING R74 MILLION**

8.1 The DCOG, through the National Disaster Management Centre, facilitated immediate relief funding through the National Treasury to address the immediate needs for both hydrological and agricultural drought. An amount of **R74 866 263** (R74.8 million) was approved by the National Treasury in August 2017 to provide assistance within the affected sectors. Of this amount, R40 million was allocated to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for the provision and transportation of livestock feed to assist farming communities affected by drought and fires. An amount of R34 866 263 (R34.8 million) is for the implementation of water provision projects in Bitou, Theewaterskloof and City of Cape Town municipalities.

Table 3: Allocations to municipalities in Western Cape Province for drought intervention measures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **MUNICIPALITIES** | **PROJECTS** | **AMOUNT**  **(September 2017)** |
|  | City of Cape Town | Drilling of boreholes and installation of water pumps and pipelines | R20.8 million |
|  | Bitou Local Municipality | Drilling of boreholes and installation of water pumps and pipelines | R10.9 million |
|  | Theewaterskloof Local Municipality | Drilling of boreholes and installation of water pumps and pipelines | R3.1 million |
| **Total:** | | | **R34.8 million** |

8.2. So far, commencement of projects have started in Theewaterskloof and Bitou Local Municipalities. The Theewaterskloof Local Municipality has reported that work has commenced although no expenditure has been incurred from the R3.1 million allocation. The Bitou Local Municipality has reported that an expenditure of R1 174m, out of the R10 9m allocated to procure control panels, drilling of a borehole in Kurland, pumps and surveying of areas for borehole drilling. It is important to note that no report has been received from the City of Cape Town regarding the expenditure of the allocated grant funding of R20.8 million.

Table 4: Allocations to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for drought and fires in the province

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO** | **PROVINCE** | **PROJECTS** | **AMOUNT**  **(October 2016)** |
|  | Western Cape | Provision and transportation of livestock feed | R40 million |

8.3. The Department of Agriculture has as of 15 August 2017 spent R59m from its own budget on provision of animal feed, assisting 4156 farmers, whereby 1684 were commercial farmers and 2472 were smallholder farmers. So far, no report has been received on the expenditure of the allocated R40 million within the provincial disaster grants.

8.4. Notable is the fact that the Disaster Grants are conditional grants, which do not cater for long-term projects, which fall within other water services development programmes such as Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant, Municipal Infrastructure Grant and Water Services Infrastructure Grant.

8.5. The NDMC received a request to conduct drought assessment in other municipalities within the Western Cape Province, which declared states of disaster subsequent to the provincial state of disaster being declared. It is important to note that the NDMC and Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre conducted the drought assessment from 18-20 October 2017.

1. **CONCLUSION**

The NDMC through the NJDCC continues monitoring the drought and water scarcity situation within the country with specific emphasis to the Western Cape Province, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape Provinces that are the most affected. The Western Cape will be monitored since the SAWS weather report painted a bleak picture for the province with regard to rainfall forecast. The NJDCC continues encouraging an integrated approach whereby all relevant affected organs of state provide support to the province to ensure maximization of resources to avoid duplication of efforts. Additionally, the NDMC urges and provide support to organs of state to develop and strengthen their multi hazard contingency plans to ensure emergency preparedness with an effort to reduce the disaster impact and ensure timely response to any disaster incidents. The NDMC in collaboration with the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre conducted the drought assessment in the additional municipalities that have declared a state of local disaster from 18-20 October 2017.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is therefore recommended that:

* Notes the updated report on the short and long-term drought intervention measures and strategies in the Western Cape Province including the dispersal of relief funding to the Western Cape Province.
* Provides support in upscaling the risk reduction measures to enhance sustainability within the water sector.
* Provides political support in ensuring prioritisation of resources for the refurbishment and replacement of aged infrastructure and proper operations as well as the maintenance of existing water infrastructure to prevent infrastructure decay, water losses through leakages.
* Encourage integration and coordination by relevant sectors in provinces to ensure alignment and maximization of resources e.g. Municipal Infrastructure Grant, Water Services Infrastructure Grant, Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant in dealing with drought as a hazard
* Encourage Water Services Authorities to implement bulk water supply projects in accordance to their project plans to avoid delays that may trigger water shortages during drought situations.
* Assist in sustaining momentum on stringent measures and restrictions on water use, conservation, awareness and public advocacy and building resilience among our infrastructure and communities.

**OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPORT**

Name: Dr Mmaphaka Ephraim Tau

Designation: Deputy Director General (Head): National Disaster Management Centre

Telephone: 012 848 4601/2

Mobile: 082 884 5541

E-mail: [Mmaphakat@ndmc.gov.za](mailto:Mmaphakat@ndmc.gov.za)