



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Minister Mokonyane emphasizes reduction of water usage**

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It was all hands on the deck the past weekend as the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, travelled the length and the breadth of the Western Cape. This noble outreach was aimed at mobilising all sectors to pull all the stops to prevent taps from running dry in the Western Cape.

The lower-than normal rainfall for the past 3 seasons has led to Western Cape being declared a disaster province in May last year. According to the report of 29 January, the combined average dam level of the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) is at 25.98%, quite a considerable decline as compared to 38.63% same period last year.

During her visit, Mokonyane's first stop was at a Stellenbosch farm where a certain farm owner pledged to provide the Khayelitsha community with 150 000 litres per day from a borehole.

Doing a walk about at Sandrivier Farm near Wellington, Minister Mokonyane was encouraged by how farmers are investing in water use efficiency irrigation schemes. Engaging AGRI SA, it was agreed that the sector will do its best to do water savings as prescribed by the water restrictions.

Meanwhile addressing Cape Town Press Club on Sunday, Minister Mokonyane outlined the National Government plans to deal with drought, and these plans include, amongst others, the following:

- Desalination of sea water
- Intensifying Water Conservation and Demand Management
- Ground Water optimization
- Re-use optimisation

Minister Mokonyane emphasised that the City of Cape Town can avoid running out of water and beat the so-called Day Zero if people can use water wisely and reduce excessive water use.