



## **INTERNET ARTICLE**

### **President Ramaphosa calls on everyone to intensify water saving**

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The newly elected President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, in his first State of the Nation Address held in Parliament on Friday, 16 February 2018, has called on all South Africans to intensify their water saving measures.

The call comes as the country faces the most severe drought in 100 years. The Cape provinces are currently under the grip of the calamitous drought, with Cape Town being the hardest hit.

Different sectors in the economy have been impacted by this drought with the agriculture and farming industries seeing the immediate consequences of low crop production and farmers struggling to feed their livestock.

In his address President Ramaphosa said: “The country remains gripped by one of the most devastating droughts in a century, which has severely impacted our economy, social services and agricultural production.”

The drought has intensified over the years and this has called for the declaration of a national disaster. Additionally, the forecasting systems indicate that the affected provinces may still experience drier than normal conditions.

President Ramaphosa elaborates: “The drought situation in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape has been elevated to a national state of disaster. This gives national government the authority to manage and coordinate our response nationally with support from all provinces.”

President Ramaphosa added that, “This will ensure that we also heighten integrated measures to support the provinces that are hardest hit. We are looking at activating the necessary extraordinary measures permitted under the legislation”.

The Inter Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) on drought and water scarcity has been actively championing integrated efforts to ensure that the country responds effectively to the drought situation.

The Department of Water and Sanitation in its continued commitment to ensure that water supply systems do not fail, has also engaged a number of stakeholders to draw on their efforts to assist in saving and ensuring the provision of water.

South Africans are continuously urged to use water wisely particularly as the low rainfall is predicted and the average dam levels are at 62.1%

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