



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY
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National Water Week 2009- "*Water is Life: Securing the Nations Needs Across Generations*".

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mrs. Lindiwe Hendricks is calling on all South Africans to join efforts to conserve and protect the country's water resources as the nation celebrates National Water Week from 2- 8 March 2009. South Africa is a water scarce country and the public is urged to make water conservation a part of their daily lives.

This year a series of events have been planned for the entire month of March across the country to further emphasise the significance of Water in our society. **A full programme is attached.**

Celebrated under the theme: *Water is Life, Securing the Nations Needs across Generations*". Water Week is aimed at:

- Raising awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country's water resources.
- Highlighting the contribution that water makes to social and economic development.
- Highlighting the role water plays in sustaining all forms of life in South Africa and the linkages between water services, water resource

management, water quality management and water conservation and water demand management.

As we celebrate National Water Week the department is mindful of the enormous challenges facing the water sector and in particular the challenge of securing water for growth and development and for future generations.

The awareness campaign comes at a time when parts of the country are reeling from the effects of the cholera outbreak, an epidemic that has claimed dozens of lives. However, the department, in collaboration with other state departments and non-governmental stakeholders, has engaged the affected communities by educating them on better hygiene standards and how to disinfect water fetched from the rivers.

Minister Lindiwe Hendricks is therefore pleased to announce the launch of the Water for Growth and Development strategy framework that will set in motion a course of action to ensure that there is sufficient water, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, to support South Africa's growth and development path.

The strategy aims to ensure there is sufficient water for the country to achieve its 6% economic growth target. At the same time, every person in South Africa must have access to potable water.

Details of this plan will be made available during Water Week 2- 8 March 2009.

In addition Water Week takes place at a time when the department is preparing to represent South Africa at the 5th World Water Forum scheduled from 16 - 22 March 2009 in Turkey.

"Water is Life: Securing the Nations Needs Across Generations".

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