

Drought strategies

Awareness campaign to be rolled out

IF the drought continues, Midmar Dam levels could be sitting at 10% by December.

Yesterday, uMgungundlovu District Municipality released a statement saying they are planning to roll out a comprehensive drought awareness campaign following the severe drought conditions that have gripped KwaZulu-Natal.

An executive committee meeting was held on Thursday where the issue of the drought was raised as a serious concern.

uMgungundlovu municipal spokesperson Mbeko Nzimande said the district is one of those that is being compelled to impose 15% water restrictions on domestic and industrial/commercial

users and an up to 50% restriction on irrigation and/or agricultural use.

"The briefing at the meeting by the uMDM technical department painted a grim picture for the coming weeks and months," said the statement.

"An example was made that if the current drought levels continue the Midmar Dam water levels would drop to the level of 10% in December 2016.

The uMgungundlovu Mayor, Yusuf Bhamjee, said the municipality has to come up with creative programmes to mitigate this drought disaster.

"We have millions of people living in rural and semi-rural areas whose water supply is under serious threat," he said in the statement.

"We have a sizeable number of farms and other agricultural enterprises, so the water restrictions will affect us tremendously, ... having a profound effect on our service delivery capacity."

Although the council is still awaiting the go-ahead from the joint operations committee on water restrictions, it was readying itself to comply fully with the "imminent" water restrictions.

The Exco has called on communities and individuals to promote efforts to save water and report leaks.

District mayor Yusuf Bhamjee said in the statement that Exco undertook to continue to send water tanks and other emergency measures to the worst affected communities. — Witness Reporter.

BUSINESSES HELPING COMMUNITIES

DURBAN — Businesses have come together to bring relief to parts of the country severely affected by the recent drought. The Willowton Group, which has donated R1 million towards drought relief, on Saturday delivered six trucks of water to Winburg in the Northern Cape and Vryburg in the Free State with more trucks set to leave for the Eastern Cape today.

Yesterday Willowton Group spokesperson Shoab Moosa, said the company considered it their duty to "assist our fellow countrymen during these desperate times". "Last week's unprecedented heatwave

placed enormous pressure on the nation's already limited resources," said Moosa.

Willowton Group and QPET have joined the #OperationHydrate campaign, aiming to bring respite to desperate citizens. Moosa encouraged other businesses to join them.

If you would like to contribute to #OperationHydrate banking details are as follows: Operation Water Absa Business Banking 9314587739 Swift code: ABSA ZAJJ For any queries regarding banking, please call M.A. Bulbulia on 082 446 1050 or e-mail mabulbulia@gmail.com

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