



Public Statement and Press Release

26 May 2020

President Ramaphosa
Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
Disaster Management Command Structure

Regarding: Water Stressed Community Report No. 3

On the 29th April the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and its allies issued its second report (available here: (<https://www.safsc.org.za/public-statement-and-press-release-water-stressed-communities-report2/>)) on water stressed communities, based on our online community reporting tool. We reported on water stress in 28 communities: 14 in the Eastern Cape, 12 in Limpopo, 1 in KZN and 1 in the Western Cape. It is apparent from reported information the Eastern Cape and Limpopo communities have been in the grip of drought, mismanagement and corruption that has lasted for years. In this report we also called for charges to be dropped for 10 water activists when they were arrested for violating lockdown regulations, when they had a meeting to discuss the urgent water crisis facing their community. Fortunately, the Centane Magistrate's Court withdrew violation of lockdown charges against the 10 activists on the 14th of May. We applauded the leniency and understanding of the Magistrates Court in this matter.

At the start of the lockdown period the DWS identified 2000 communities as water stressed and requiring immediate attention. The figure below indicates the national distribution of government tanks to communities across the nine provinces (15th May).

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF TANKS ALLOCATED	TANKS DELIVERED	NO OF TANKS REMAINING TO BE DELIVERED	TANKS INSTALLED
Western Cape	719	709	10	345
Eastern Cape	5 695	5 489	206	4 314
Northern Cape	895	884	11	347
North West	1 413	1 402	11	938
Free State	2 633	1 807	826	607
Limpopo	926	642	274	573
Gauteng	2 112	2 050	62	917
Mpumalanga	657	646	11	470
KZN	4 211	4 200	11	3 040
Total	19 251	17 829	1 422	11 551

The latest report on the interventions (19th May) by the DWS indicates that "17 962 tanks have been delivered throughout the country. 11 978 of these tanks were installed, and a total of 1 299

tankers (trucks) have so far been delivered to ensure the tanks remain in use". The DWS has tasked local municipalities with the responsibility of safeguarding and refilling these water tanks. In the Eastern Cape, DWS has "4 494 tanks installed and in use, with 201 tankers delivered, of which 169 are in use. Alfred Nzo District Municipality has received 482 tanks which are also in use, with 13 tankers delivered". Despite these numbers, there have been some concerning issues with regards to the government's roll-out in some of these communities in the Eastern Cape (see below specific issues raised by communities). With some of these communities reporting that the first and last day they had water, was when the tanks arrived in April. Particularly the communities of Mbizana and Ntabankulu (Alfred Nzo DM), where the tanks were incorrectly installed. In some cases, one tank must serve the needs of 2000 - 3000 members of a community.

While Minister Sisulu has acted decisively to suspend the Amatola Water chief executive officer Vuyo Zitumane, corruption within the department and at the level of local municipalities have also, more generally, proven to be a matter which compounds the current water crisis in a number of communities. The acknowledgement of this issue by the DWS's Financial Recovery Plan is noted. But this process of identifying the roots of maladministration and rooting out bad actors, so as to allow for more adequate provision of water and sanitation services has to be escalated beyond a few individuals. The scale and extent of corruption suggests it is systemic. So far there have been 48 cases of serious misconduct flagged within the department. Six of these cases were prioritised as they implicated two deputy director generals and two chief directors. There is also a case of a senior official involved in awarding irregular contracts at the value of R7 billion. There has been a total of R16,5 billion in irregular expenditure recorded and a departmental loss of R1,7 billion due to wasteful expenditure.

In this statement, we report that an additional 32 communities have utilised our online monitoring tool. Our total has now moved up from 47 to 79 water stressed communities recorded on our online map: 57 in the Eastern Cape, 3 in the Western Cape, 3 in Kwa-Zulu Natal, 1 in the Free State, 1 in Gauteng and 14 in Limpopo. From the communities we have recorded and reported on there has been no change in their situation. See below for detailed comments from communities.

Thus we have not received a response from the Minister and DWS to the two reports submitted. Communities are anxious to find out what the DWS is doing to address their concerns. We would appreciate a response to all our water stress community reports, including this one by Friday, 29th May.

This report will also be tabled in the National Food Crisis Forum convened by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and supported by about 111 civil society organisations.

We look forward to your response

For further information, contact:

Ayanda Kota, UPM, SAFSC activist, 078 625 6462

Chriszanne Janse van Vuuren, Support Centre for Land Change, SAFSC activist, 079 386 7470

Nosintu Mcimeli, Abanebhongo Persons with Disabilities, SAFSC activist, 060 497 9783

Vishwas Satgar, Board Chairperson Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre, SAFSC activist, 082 775 3420

Annexure: List of water affected communities in Eastern Cape

	Name of village or community	Province	How long have you experienced water stress	Provide more detail of situation
1	Ngqowa	Eastern Cape	3 years	
2	Niri	Eastern Cape	3 years	
3	Benton	Eastern Cape	3 years	
4	Gcinisa	Eastern Cape	3 years	
5	Wesley	Eastern Cape	3 years	
6	Bodyama	Eastern Cape	3 years	
7	Bell	Eastern Cape	3 years	
8	Tyhefu	Eastern Cape	3 years	
9	Prudhoe	Eastern Cape	3 years	
10	Mgababa	Eastern Cape	3 years	
11	Mohekweni	Eastern Cape	3 years	
12	Mthathi	Eastern Cape	3 years	
13	Lujiko	Eastern Cape	3 years	
14	Mission	Eastern Cape	3 years	
15	Gwalane	Eastern Cape	3 years	
16	Esgingqini -	Eastern Cape	3 years	
17	Qeto - ??	Eastern Cape	3 years	
18	Tuba	Eastern Cape	3 years	
19	Nyeleni - Peddie?	Eastern Cape	3 years	
20	Dabhana	Eastern Cape	3 years	
21	Maxhegweni	Eastern Cape	3 years	
22	Ntshamanzi	Eastern Cape	3 years	
23	eMabeleni	Eastern Cape	3 years	
24	Nobumba	Eastern Cape	3 years	
25	Ntloko	Eastern Cape	3 years	
26	Rosi	Eastern Cape	3 years	
27	Cheketyuma	Eastern Cape	3 years	
28	Makahlane	Eastern Cape	3 years	
29	Mahlubini	Eastern Cape	3 years	
30	Mankone	Eastern Cape	3 years	
31	Maqhosha	Eastern Cape	3 years	
32	Rhurha	Eastern Cape	3 years	
33	Pikoli	Eastern Cape	3 years	
34	Ndlambe	Eastern Cape	3 years	
35	Bhirha	Eastern Cape	3 years	
36	Tuku	Eastern Cape	3 years	
37	Bel	Eastern Cape	3 years	
38	Lovertwist	Eastern Cape	3 years	
39	Leqeni	Eastern Cape	3 years	
40	Woyi	Eastern Cape	3 years	
41	Tyityibana	Eastern Cape	3 years	
42	Crossman	Eastern Cape	3 years	
43	Nxilinx	Eastern Cape	close to a year	

44	Jekezi	Eastern Cape	close to a year	taps closed, no communication to community
45	Ntseshe	Eastern Cape	close to a year	taps closed
46	eSgithini	Eastern Cape	close to a year	there is no water
47	Port Alfred - township	Eastern Cape	6 months	the residents in this community depend on trucks to deliver water
48	Alexandria - township	Eastern Cape	6 months	the residents in this community depend on trucks to deliver water
49	Bathurst – township	Eastern Cape	6 months	the residents in this community depend on trucks to deliver water
50	Makhanda	Eastern Cape	since 2004	The residents in this community are rationed with water, 2 days per week without water
51	Alicedale	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community are rationed with water, 2 days per week without water
52	Seven Fountain	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community are rationed with water, 2 days per week without water
53	Riebeck East	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community are rationed with water, 2 days per week without water
54	Nxopho	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community do not have running water, and no trucks have been sent to the community
55	Bhele	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community do not have running water, and no trucks have been sent to the community
56	Gobozane	Eastern Cape	close to a year	The residents in this community do not have running water,

				and no trucks have been sent to the community
57	Ward 4 in Raymond Mhlaba	Eastern Cape	Several months	There is unavailability of diesel to pump water from the reservoirs. No plans for water trucks to deliver water.
58	Mount Frere	Eastern Cape	no water had flowed from their taps for a whole year	<p>During the lockdown taps opened on Sunday 5 April and were closed on Tuesday 7 April. Farmers Network South Africa had to buy bread for homeless people after nothing was provided for them. In the villages, people had filled in the necessary forms for food relief but had not heard back, 17 days later. Out of 470 hawkers who lost out on work during the lockdown, only 40 received assistance. Government was insisting that people provide certified copies of their IDs even though people from the villages can't afford to get to town and the copy shop in town is closed. Government officials had also allegedly told ward councillors to reduce the number of names of vulnerable people needing food parcels from 1500 to 43. Because food parcels never materialised, community members then started a feeding scheme making a</p>

				cooked meal, but it quickly ran out of food.
59	airport valley, Walmer informal settlement	Eastern Cape	more than 3 years	still relying on communal taps, no wipes and sanitiser, expected some additional JoJo tanks to be installed so that the queues would not be so long. Some government officials went to the shacks to register people for food parcels but no food has been delivered and they just went to some shacks and not all of them.
60	KwaNobuhle	Eastern Cape	more than 3 years	
61	Uitenhage	Eastern Cape	more than 3 years	