



MEDIA RELEASE

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Greater Knysna plans for season

The Western Cape currently finds itself in the grips of one of the worst droughts in years.

Despite this, the Knysna Municipal manager, Kam Chetty says that this will in no way hamper the town's summer season readiness and Knysna is definitely "open for business".

"Thanks to the R3.1 million received from the Western Cape Provincial and forward planning, we have put several measures in place to ensure that we do not run out of water during the drier upcoming summer season. We therefore encourage and welcome visitors to Greater Knysna.

The municipal technical team has several short-term interventions in place to assist with the current water scarcity. These include the Charlesford pipeline construction that will, once completed, increase the pumping capacity to Knysna's off-channel Akkerkloof Dam.

Greater Knysna further makes use of alternate water resources such as Knysna's Reverse Osmosis and Sedgefield's Desalination Plants, the Bigai Spring and numerous boreholes in both Knysna and Sedgefield."

The area recently received significant rainfall resulting in both the Gouna and Knysna Rivers flowing once again. This has played a significant role in the balancing Glebe dam being 40 percent and the Akkerkloof storage dam 42 percent full.

Despite the increase in the levels of the storage dams, Greater Knysna remains on Level 3 Water Restrictions. This means

- The use of hosepipes for gardening, washing of cars and boats and other purposes, and the use of irrigation systems are prohibited;
- Domestic consumption to be limited to 20 kl per household per month. Water restricting/management devices will be installed for transgressors;
- Areas where households receive a free basic water allocation will be limited to 6kl per household per month (200 litres per household per day);
- Business consumption to be reduced by 30 per cent on previous year's monthly average consumption, except car washes. Water restricting/management devices will be installed for transgressors;
- Construction industry, car washes and nurseries to use alternate water source;
- Stage 2 drought tariff is applicable;
- Health and correctional facilities to install own tanks that will be filled by Municipal tanker;
- Flow restrictors be installed in all standpipes;
- Penalties will be issued for violations of any of the above.

It must be noted that according to the Council resolution of 11 August, 2017, the Executive Mayor, in consultation with the Portfolio Councillor for Technical Services, the Municipal Manager and the Director: Technical Services, approves the movement between Restriction levels, and have made the decision that Level Three Water Restrictions remain in place.

“As the usual drier summer months are still lying ahead, we were further cautioned by the Western Cape Provincial Government not to relax our water restriction and our conservation management,” said Chetty.

In closing the Municipal manager urges residents and visitors to continue to use water sparingly regardless of the recent rainfall and the proactive measures taken by the municipality. “It is of utmost importance that the residents, business and tourists remain proactive in their endeavours to save and reduce their water consumption. I thank each and every one who is taking this drought seriously and has made water conservation part of their daily lives.

Although we are ready for the festive season our Level 3 Water Restrictions remain in place and we urge everyone to adhere to these.”

ENDS

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