

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality prays for rain

When the levels of dams, the main water supply to Nelson Mandela Bay and parts of Kouga, reached a low of 24%, the Metro's Executive Mayor Athol Trollip led a delegation of councillors and religious leaders to Churchill Dam to pray for rain.

Efforts by the municipality, the local community, business and media have been made to ensure people save water and avert a catastrophe, the Metro said, but it announced at the dam that the situation has now reached a disaster level. Previously as part of enforced water restrictions the municipality asked people to use 60 litres per person per day, but at the Churchill Dam, the Mayor decreased the amount to 50 litres per person per day.

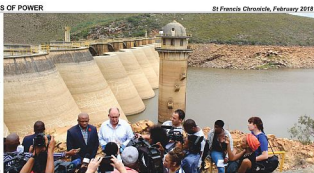
"We want to thank those people who have heeded our call to use 60 litres per person per day. It has made a lot of difference. Among the efforts that we are making to reduce water consumption and find ways and means on how to allow Day Zero, the City decided to call religious leaders to

come along as part of this site visit. We wanted them to pray with us as we ask for a divine intervention. There is a lot of effort we have put to reduce water consumption and safe water, we now pray to the Almighty God to come to our rescue," Trollip said.

Since the drastic decrease in dam levels in 2016, the municipality said it had intensified by its water saving awareness campaign. The City also employed more plumbers and improved performance management systems within the teams that is dedicated to fix water leaks. This decreased the turnaround time for the fixing of water leaks. Its also led to the municipality saving of millions litres of water.

Late last year the municipality started a project of drilling boreholes for offset use at sports fields and swimming pools. The completion of phase 2 of the Kooledagatj Water Supply has also optimised the extraction and usage of available water.

This resulted in an increase of available water from 90MI per day to 13MI per day.



Media and municipal officials at the Churchill Dam where prayers for rain were conducted by priests. Photo: Nasde Mjwara

Phase 3 is currently underway. The City also started an implementation plan to water pressure management, water meter replacement and water pipe replacement.

According to the Metro's Director for Water Services, Barry Martin, if there is no significant rain for the next six months, and consumers do not decrease consumption,

the City will run out of water. "We are taking a hard line on the residents who are high water users. We have installed water consumption control devices in their homes. We are now targeting businesses who are not responding to our call of decreasing consumption with the similar action," Martin said.

Kouga drilling boreholes as its main supplier runs dry

The Kouga Municipality says it is drilling boreholes in its efforts trying to secure more water sources for its residents as the drought continues.

This comes after the low levels of water at the Churchill dam, at 24% at end of January, and calls by St Francis, residents to use their area's own underground water instead of relying on water from the Churchill dam. Meanwhile very little monitoring of water conservation is taking place in St Francis, according to critics on social media and the area has been accused of squandering water such as watering gardens with sprinklers, leaving taps running and residents are still bathing.

St Francis had been self sufficient for years, using its own water for more than five decades until the previous municipality

decided it was too cumbersome to fix underground pipes and water pumps and that it was easier to use water imported by the Nelson Mandela Metro. And so the Churchill water pipeline to St Francis was constructed.

Three boreholes were drilled at Oyster Bay late last year. The yield, at about two litres per second assisted the town in coping with the holiday influx. The town has two existing boreholes and a spring and does not rely on the Nelson Mandela Bay-controlled dams for supply.

Two boreholes in Jeffreys Bay have been drilled while one is being rehabilitated. Jeffreys Bay gets its water supply both from the Metro and the town's borehole.

The Mayor said geophysics testing had been completed in Humansdorp and drilling

for water would start outside the town next to the R330 road near the Melkhout settlement shortly.

Humansdorp uses spring water and gets the rest of its supply from the Metro dams.

And at last the municipality has heeded calls for the past two years to use the underground water in St Francis which comes from the dunes at Mosterhoek, so as to supply St Francis Bay and Cape St Francis.

The two towns are supplied through the Metro dams.

The geophysics tests have also been completed in Hankey and the municipality is waiting for results before drilling can start, with the Zuurbronn area showing preliminary

signs of being the likeliest spot for another borehole.

The municipality recently imposed water shedding in Hankey and Patensie as the towns had almost used up their quotas for the period ending June 2018.

Geophysics will also be conducted in the vicinity of the Kouga dam.

The municipality has repeated what it said a year ago that it is investigating desalination as an option to solve the crisis facing Kouga. A delegation from Kouga recently visited Israel to learn from the world leaders in water technology.

The municipality will appoint a consultant shortly to assist with bringing desalinated water into Kouga's water mix.

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Community News

Four new faces at SF College



Four new teachers were welcomed into the fold of St Francis College last month.

Headmaster Franz Bause said the school had secured the services of Ralfon Fortuin as the new physical education teacher and sports coach, Aletta Malherbe is the Grade 7 class teacher, Nadine Knezovich in Grade 6 and Catherine Falconer in Grades 00 and 2 for the first term.

Sudan and in Nairobi, Kenya since 2014. She and her husband have also recently relocated to St Francis Bay. Falconer has agreed to be the class teacher for the Butterfly class at the Nursery School from the start of the second term.

Photo: Nadine Knezovich, Ralfon Fortuin, Franz Bause (Headmaster), Catherine Falconer and Aletta Malherbe.

Aiden's first cycle through Rotary Recycle Project

5 year-old Aiden Sisusa was delighted with the bike he earned at last month's Recycle Swap Shop Project. He was presented with his bike by Rotarians Ivan Beaumont and Craig Northwood to loud cheers from his family.

Rotary thanks all those who responded to an appeal for bikes for the hard working recyclers. Aiden overjoyed with

