



3 Comments

Mkhize confirms state of disaster over drought has lapsed

SOUTH AFRICA Thursday 14 June 2018 - 5:45am



File: The City of Cape Town has called on the population to continue conserving water "given the uncertainty of rainfall". Photo: Pixabay



CAPE TOWN - Government said on Wednesday that the national [state of disaster it declared in March](#) over a drought that ravaged parts of the country, had lapsed after [significant rainfall](#).

The three-year drought hit Cape Town particularly hard, threatening to leave residents of the country's second-largest city without drinking water.

The government said it had conducted assessments which showed that the [severe phase of the drought](#) that affected agricultural production in a number of provinces was at an end.

The minister in charge of local governance, Zweli Mkhize, "confirmed that a national state of disaster that was declared on 13 March 2018 has lapsed," a government statement said.

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Over R400-million was mobilised from various disaster grants to implement relief operations in an attempt to avoid turning taps off under a [so-called "Day Zero"](#) scenario and provide water to all regions.

In recent weeks, the Cape region, which typically receives rainfall between May and August, has [experienced significant rains](#).

The Cape Town municipality said the [water level in dams had risen](#) to almost 32 percent from over 21 percent this time last year.

However, the city -- battling its worst drought in 100 years -- has called on the population to [continue conserving water](#) "given the uncertainty of rainfall".

"We have to make sure that we [adhere to our goals and restrictions](#)" -- namely a daily consumption of 50 litres per person, the municipality said.

AFP



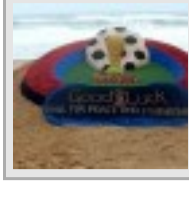


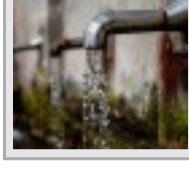
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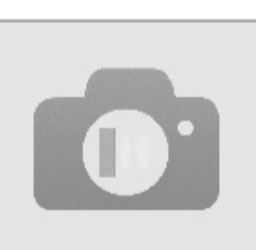



Currencies	Commodities	JSE Indices
US Dollar	13.1947	↑ 0.11
GB Pound	17.7046	↑ 0.0876
Euro	15.5907	↑ 0.0989
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