



Municipal Engagement: High level discussion providing solution pathways for Coping with Extreme Weather Events, Recurring droughts, Changing Climate and Possible Interventions

Date: 26 May 2022

Time: 10h00 – 12h50

Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nNom-jjcQ9CUDbEh61CaHg

Background

When we refer to droughts, we normally talk about the 4 different types of droughts viz. meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, and socio-economic. Rarely are these droughts tracked and managed in an integrated manner, particularly at a local scale. Responses or coping strategies focus on the hydrological droughts and trying to understand meteorological dynamics. In most instances, the response strategies are reactive and not very helpful at the appropriate decision-making scales. There are inadequate institutional response mechanisms available to understand and manage the predicted impacts of the different extreme events. In addition, inefficient water use is a key challenge facing water conservation and demand management. Alternative sources of water and conservation practices need to form part of a long-term resilience strategy. Central to all is the availability of suitable integrated data and information systems to assist in informed decision-making at the different scales.

While the Western Cape grappled with the severity of drought, the Eastern Cape Province was also facing the worst drought since 2015, and the government declared the province as the disaster area in October 2019. The persistent drought in the Eastern Cape Province has had a negative effect on industry and the agricultural sector. At the centre of droughts lies human based factors such as poor water management, vandalism of water infrastructure and environmental impacts such as unpredictable weather patterns with heavy rains failing to break the drought.

The Water Research Commission (WRC) in collaboration with Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) signed a partnership agreement in 2020 to share knowledge and resources that will help guide the planning in the management of water and sanitation interventions required in the province to plan better. The focus of this webinar will be to discuss short, medium to long-term coping mechanisms and strategies for the recurring drought conditions and resultant impacts. Other areas of discussion will be the knowledge gaps in climate and drought preparedness and what should be done to bridge knowledge to practice.

Aim of the webinar

The aim of the webinar is to discuss and unpack the climatic conditions and persistent droughts and to work towards developing a framework that seeks to mitigate against droughts as well as develop short- and long-term coping strategies.

Draft Agenda

Programme facilitator: Dr Brilliant Petja, WRC Research Manager

10:00-10:05	Welcome	Facilitator
10:05-10:15	Opening address	Prof Stanley Liphadzi, WRC
10:15-10:35	Setting the scene – Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality drought scenario	Mr Ashraf Adam, MBDA CEO
10:35-10:45	Dealing with Water Crisis Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality – Joint Operational Centre (JoC).	Shane Brown, Chairperson of JOC Nelson Mandela Bay Metro
10:45-11:00	Q&A	
11:00 -11:10	Hydrological perspectives on climate and drought – management and planning	Dr Chris Moseki, DWS
11:10-11:20	Meteorological perspective on drought and climate	Prof Roelof Burger, NWU
11:20-11:30	Agriculture - From drought response to drought preparedness for resilient systems	Prof Andries Jordaan, UFS
11:30-11:40	Water Reuse and Desalination	Dr Nonhlanhla Kalebaila, WRC
11:40-11:45	Q&A	Facilitator
11:45-12:00	Interventions - Planning using alternative water mix approach preparing for dry spells	Dr Shafick Adams, WRC
12:00-12:15	Regionally extensive droughts and possible land use-based mitigation strategies within the context of climate change	Prof Babatunde Abiodun, UCT
12:15-12:25	Lessons from the City of Cape Town Municipality	Michael Webster, City of Cape Town (tbc)
12:25 – 12:35	Q&A	Facilitator



12:35-12:50	Closure and way forward	Dr Shafick Adams WRC and Ms Koliswa Mgijima, MBDA
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