

## Water and Sanitation in the News

### 10-year plan to address SA's water crisis

Minister Nomvula Mokonyane yesterday announced a National Water Master Plan to mainly address water shortages facing the country. The department says the plan - which is at least a 10-year one - will ensure better response strategies in such crises.

The announcement comes as researchers from the Water Research Commission earlier this week said the crisis could've been averted had government implemented certain measures as soon as the drought was forecast.

South Africa is facing one of the worst droughts in its history. Speaking at the New Age Breakfast Briefing, in Woodmead Johannesburg, Minister Mokonyane said the plan would improve the state's capacity to deal with such occurrences in the future. "In line with the National Development Plan, South Africa is now busy at work developing an integrated water master plan, supported by international partners through the strategic water partnership network."

Water and Sanitation's Sputnik Ratau says moving forward, all sectors experiencing a water shortage will be considered. "This would look at all kinds of development be it in human settlement, farming - what are the challenges, where are the shortages and what needs to be done. It becomes a blueprint that has got the understanding of all the people of the country in terms of where they are," he said.

Minister Mokonyane says, "We work on the establishment of regional water utilities to build the capacity of the state. The other thing that is also quite important is promotion of recycling of water. These are the areas that we are now looking at but it starts with me and you."

Source: [ECR 02 Dec 2015](#); [SABC 02 Dec 2015](#)

The Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) is the only professional organisation that represents the whole water sector in Southern Africa. The Institute relies heavily on volunteers to fulfil its mandate which is building expertise, sharing knowledge, improving quality of life.



[eWISA](#) is the capacity building, information and knowledge sharing arm of WISA. The eWISA website was established in May 2006 to provide a sustainable long term mechanism to increase the availability of water related information in Southern Africa and in Africa. The primary objective of the

website is to increase the levels of knowledge, competency and education to work towards the long term sustainable use of the water resources in Southern Africa towards the improvement of the quality of life for all Southern Africans.

eWISA's popularity has grown exponentially over the past few years and has reached a phenomenal milestone during the week of **2.5 million site visits** since its establishment.

Knowledge sharing and capacity building are probably the two most vital aspects of the broader strategy to address the current water challenges in South Africa, both with some immediacy and into the future.



All stakeholders in the southern African water sector are encouraged to continue visiting [eWISA](#) for loads of useful information that are constantly updated: such as water resources (including surface water and coastal zones), legislation and policies, guidelines and standards, water infrastructure related information linked to South African municipalities, potable water information from bulk water supply to water treatment as well waste water works.

There are also hundreds of links to training resources (career paths, courses, providers & contact details) literature and publications, photo galleries, as well as information and links to important services and products including the providers thereof in the water sector. Numerous fact sheets (covering various topics such as environmental requirements, policies and planning, water quality, asset management, water borne diseases, water services, treatment processes and many other technical documents, etc.) as well as useful software tools such as the Conversion Tool and the Water Footprint Calculator are also available to freely download.

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