

Water and Sanitation in the News

R381 Million to Address Water Shortage in Madibeng

A whopping R381 million has been set aside to upgrade the Brits Water Treatment Works (BWTW), which will bring to an end the water shortages that has recently sparked service delivery protests in Majakaneng. Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) media liaison officer Sputnik Ratau said working together with the struggling Madibeng Local Municipality, the department will address water challenges in Majakaneng through the upgrade of the BWTW, which also supplies the Majakaneng area.

He said the upgrade of the BWTW includes the replacement of sand filters which was completed in July 2014 by Magalies Water. Ratau said "Phase 1 (which includes civil works) of the BWTW is envisaged to be completed by August 2015 and Phase 2 which includes mechanical and electrical will follow thereafter, while the entire upgrade of the BWTW is envisaged to be completed by the 2017/2018 financial year," he said. However, in the short-term, he said the department allocated R1.1 million to the Madibeng Local Municipality to address the water challenges in Majakaneng which are mainly attributed to vandalism and leakages in the water supply system which makes the whole Majakaneng reticulation and delivery points to have major water leakages.

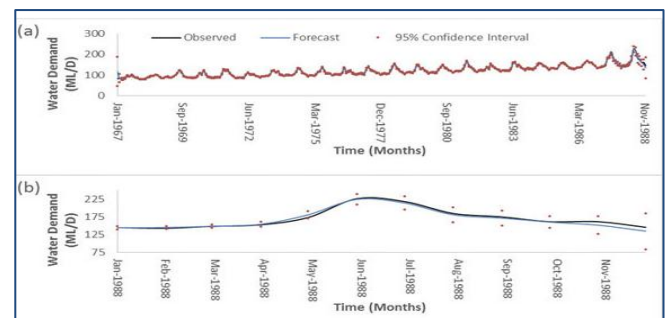
Meanwhile, on Monday morning, angry protesting residents of Majakaneng near Mooinooi, in the North West, barricaded the Old Rustenburg road with burning tyres and also burnt a bus. The anger is alleged to have been fuelled by the poor supply of both electricity and water in their area.

Source: SANews.gov.za, 04 Feb. 2015

In water scarce countries, such as South Africa, meeting the increasing demand from existing resources is a serious challenge. In general, there are two approaches to address high water demand problems: 1) meeting demand on the 'supply-side' with the development of new resources; and/or 2) managing consumption levels from the 'demand side' itself in order to postpone the need to develop new resources. Therefore, besides the critical importance of proper upgrading, management and maintenance of water treatment infrastructure/assets, the implementation of

sound water operations procedures are becoming increasingly important to address water supply challenges.

Water demand forecasting is one such important task that can be utilised by water resources managers to help mitigate consequences stemming from fluctuations in demand and properly respond to water system dynamics at varying scales and lead times, ensuring appropriate operational, tactical, and strategic management of the water system.



Water demand forecasting can be applied to solve a number of issues faced by water supply system management such as: 1) understanding the dynamics and underlying factors that affect water use; 2) managing and optimising the operation of pumps, wells, reservoirs, and mains, among other things; 3) developing effective water demand management programs; 4) setting meaningful water rate schedules; and 5) providing information regarding when peak water demand is likely to occur (Adamowski, *et al.*, 2012).

Source: Water Online, 29 Jan. 2015.

Water demand management and forecasting requires that accurate water supply data are kept and monitored. The **Municipal Assistant™** system was developed to address the need for an operational information system to assist with the operations, maintenance and management of water and wastewater facilities and related infrastructure. The MA system's Water Demand Management Module was added to the system in 2007 and has proved to be a resourceful tool for monitoring, analysing and reporting of water demand aspects and trends.

CONTACT US: Tel: +27 (0)21 887 7161

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