

Water and Sanitation in the News

Free State businesses gear up for water-shedding

Free State businesses are gearing up for the impending water-shedding. The province was previously announced as the first to implement scheduled water-shedding across all municipalities. This comes after minister for water affairs and sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, reportedly said the country would never implement water-shedding.

Fienes Meat Market owner Nick Geralys told News24 on Wednesday that he had put measures in place to ensure that his business survived the water-shedding. "We are a butchery, so we have to make sure that our shop is always clean, therefore, we have stored water for our products. We have also installed smaller toilets, and limited the usage of water in everything we do," he said.

At Van der Boons Bakery and Catering, owner Hardy Otto said he was worried that water-shedding would "cripple" his business. "This is bad for us and it will definitely cripple us. I bake at night and in order for me to bake, I need water. I understand there should be water restrictions but this came at the worst time. Water shedding does not only affect me, but it affects the whole process of food," he said. However, Otto said he would be storing water in tanks as a solution.

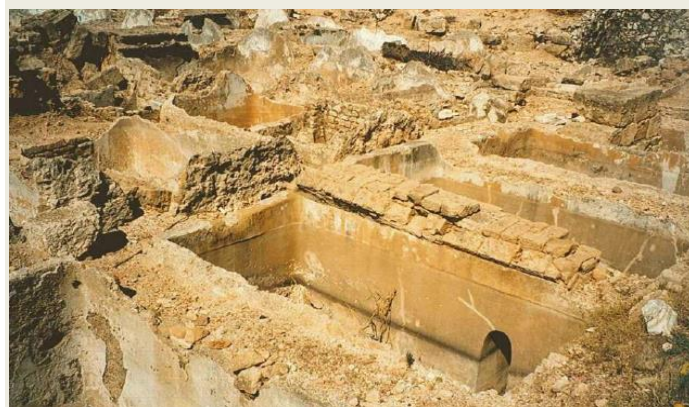
Last week Moqhaka Local Municipality became the first municipality to institute water-shedding, leaving some communities with only a two-hour window period. The municipality also announced that residents would be fined R2 000 if they water their gardens or wash their cars using hosepipes. "We are still working on a system that will help us track down those who are misusing water. So far there are no reported cases," said spokesperson Champ Tloome.

Source: [News24, 18 November 2015](#)

How did ancient civilisations manage & conserve their water?

Tyre (Sour) in Lebanon, approximately 100km south of Beirut, is an ancient Phoenician city dating back 2750 B.C. The name of the city means 'rock' after the rocky formation on which the town was originally built. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, laid siege to Tyre from 585 BC to 572 BC. In 539 BC the Achaemenids conquered the city, until 332 BC, when Alexander the Great, conquered and razed it. In 126 BC, Tyre regained its independence and became a Roman province in 64 BC.

The city flourished under Roman rule between 200 AD and 600 AD. During this time many developments took place: The town had a big aqueduct system that supplied large amounts of water from fountains to the sea. A public bath house was built with a warm water system and latrines. The Romans **recycled public bath waste water by using it as part of the flow that flushed the latrines**. It also had a sewer system and terra cotta piping was used for plumbing that carried waste water from homes.



Baths with latrines at the back. Bath water was used to flush the latrines



Sanitation pipes

Source: [eWISA](#)

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