

Water and Sanitation in the News

South Africa facing a disastrous water crisis

South Africa is fast approaching a water crisis of “disastrous” proportions, Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane said on Sunday, adding that the country was the 30th driest in the world. Speaking during a visit to Illovo in Kwazulu-Natal as part of his national Vision 2029 tour, Maimane charged that the crisis was not only a climate problem, but a problem of governance. “The burden of low rainfall is being exacerbated by poor maintenance, aging infrastructure and an intermittent energy supply,” he stated, adding that South Africa had a constitution that guaranteed the right to water in the Bill of Rights but this right was being denied to millions of the country’s residents.

The effect of this crisis had been felt deeply in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) where dams were only 35% full on average. Without rain, this supply would be depleted within two months, Maimane cautioned. “In this province alone, an estimated 1 million people have been impacted by water shortages and water restrictions, while others have to walk tens of kilometres to source drinking water. “We have already seen the humanitarian impact of this, but we are increasingly seeing the agricultural and economic impact. “Without water for irrigation, sugar farmers are suffering and mills are closing. The result is job losses that we certainly cannot afford. In KZN, almost 40% of people are already unemployed – a rate well above the national average.”

Maimane said the water crisis could not be allowed to go the way of the electricity crisis. “We cannot afford national water load-shedding on top of electricity load-shedding. We need to take urgent action to prevent this looming disaster,” he warned. “On average we lose 37% of revenue from water due to physical leakage, commercial losses and any unbilled consumption. In many irrigation and municipal water supply schemes this figure can reach as high as 60%,” he added.

Source: *RDM News, 12 July 2015*

Context

The sustainable production of safe drinking water and the discharge of acceptable quality effluent to rivers are critically dependent on equipment that is maintained, staff that are technically skilled and management that is leading a team effort. Our product, the **Municipal Assistant™** System, provides a tool that empowers the whole team, from the technical staff through to management – in the appropriate

and efficient operations and management of drinking water and waste water treatment plants. Our primary focus is to empower our clients (the municipalities that use our system) by enabling them to access information with regards to their assets, staff, and very important – the status of their Water Quality (keeping Blue and Green Drop assessments in mind). The system is a powerful tool that gives management an updated day to day overview of the operation of the municipality. This is with regards to Assets, Maintenance Scheduling (including preventative maintenance), Budgeting, Staff, Water Quality and many more.



The services we offer are extensive, **from asset assessment, including cost and lifespan assessment, to pipeline profiling and hydraulics, maintenance scheduling, water quality compliance reporting, staff assessment and qualification management, CRM, works classification, GPS plotting, water related libraries, documents and fact sheets and a host of other services.**

Our aim is to provide a solution jointly, together, rather than we imposing a solution, as our clients are the owners of their plant/works.

- We believe that the system must address the problem – not the other way around – you cannot program the problem to suit the system

- Immediate action is required. The problem is ALREADY with us, so tomorrow is too late. (This is evident when reviewing the assets of more than 200 water and wastewater works which we have assessed over the past 6 years). We have a solution that can be deployed almost immediately to address the water crisis.

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