



STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Your ref. 01/03/2016

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Media release

Municipality's dams under constraint as water levels drop

South Africa is experiencing the worst drought in decades and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is feeling the effect of exceptionally low summer rainfalls. This is reminiscent of the 2013/14 water shortage when the Middelburg Dam reached the exceptionally low level of 21% and severe water restrictions were put in place.

Although water restrictions were lifted, STLM is currently experiencing a severe water shortage due to an exceptional high water demand and limited inflow to the dams. The only water source at present is the Middelburg Dam, which is currently at a level of 54 %.

With the dry winter season ahead of us, residents are urged to **SAVE WATER** by adhering to the following restrictions;

- No use of irrigation system for gardens and lawns;
- No more approvals for new car wash applications;
- Schools to apply for watering of sports facilities;
- The washing of paved areas with hosepipes is prohibited, and
- The washing of vehicles is only allowed from a bucket.

In order to avoid penalties, residents must follow these simple water saving tips;

- Fix leaking taps;
- Make sure the toilet seals properly and does not leak water;
- Drop a block (half brick) into the toilet cistern – saves 2 litres of water per flush;
- Use the washing machine sparingly on short cycle or wash by hand;
- Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath;
- Use a bucket in the shower to catch grey water – use this for watering plants;
- Let kids bath together;
- Couples can shower or bath together;
- Don't let water run while brushing your teeth;

- Make sure the dishwasher is completely full before starting the washing cycle;
- Monitor water usage by reading the meter every second day;
- Limit the washing of vehicles, instead use a bucket to wash your car, and
- Teach your children to use water sparingly.

Residents are requested to report any pipe bursts to the municipality as soon as they are identified by calling: (013) 2497168/(013)2421656.

Over and above the conditions mentioned, council will further implement the following condition:

- A penalty tariff of R100,00 per kl be applied on residential water usage in excess of 20 kl per month, with effect from 1 April 2016.
- Car washes, residential complexes on a single meter and guesthouses, lodges and hotels be required to effect a 20% saving on water usage based on their March 2016 consumption with effect from April 2016 and that a similar surcharge of R100,00 per kl be applied in respect of water consumption above 80% of the March 2016 consumptions.

Individuals found using water outside the parameters of these restrictions face fines up to R 1500.00 per incident. Residents are urged to use water sparingly. Every drop counts, saving water is everyone responsibility.

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Yours sincerely

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER