

Executive Mayor expresses concern on the ongoing drought



The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Councillor Pule Shayi has expressed concern on the ongoing drought in the district.

Speaking to SABC TV News reporters on Tuesday this week, Shayi said “the ongoing conditions experienced across the Mopani District is a matter of great concern for us.”

The Executive Mayor said that the district municipality needs to work with all stakeholders to develop a plan to deal with drought situation because water at most of the district's major dams are very low. The Tzaneen Dam which supplies water to Tzaneen CBD, Tzaneen residential, Nkowankowa and over 40 villages is just at 7,23% capacity.

“We have instructed local municipalities to implement water restrictions, including water shedding which is a council resolution. We need to work faster with Eskom to ensure that boreholes drilled are energized to augment our water sources.”

“In August we distributed additional 10 water tankers to our local municipalities to supply water in areas where there is no source at all, and in other instances to augment water from the boreholes,” he said.



He has called on all residents of the district to play a role in water conservation. “Water conservation begins with each one of us. Every resident of Mopani District Municipality needs to take immediate measures to preserve and save water so that we do not face a future water crisis. We need a change of attitude on water usage.”

A Joint Operational Centre which will involve all stakeholders will be activated within a space of a week. The JOC will include amongst others, the Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, the Department of Labour, and the Agricultural Farmers Union.

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