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Dag Zero mag afgeweer word in Kaapstad

DAY ZERO MAY BE AVOIDED IN CAPE TOWN

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Dag Zero mag afgeweer word in Kaapstad

DA leier, Mmusi Maimane, het vroeër vandag tydens ‘n personderhoud aangekondig dat die verwagte Dag Zero-scenario vir Kaapstad moontlik heeltemal vanjaar vermy mag word. Hierdie scenario is gebruik vir beplanningsdoeleindes as ‘n aanduiding van wanneer die Stad se watertoevoer sou opdroog vanweë die heersende droogtetoestande waaronder die Stad gebuk gaan.

Daar is aanvanklik verwag dat hierdie datum 22 April sou wees, maar dit is kort daarna verander na 12 April. Dit is later geskuif na 16 April, en daarna weer verander na onderskeidelik 11 Mei, 4 Junie en 9 Julie. Day Zero is nou onbepaald uitgestel. Die Stad het omvattende gebeurlikheidsplanne rondom die mobilisering van hulpbronne voorberei om 25-liter drinkbare water per persoon per dag te voorsien. Reëlings is getref vir die water om by sekere aangewese punte oral in die Stad afgehaal te word.

Die Stad se gebruik van hierdie scenario is voorheen bevraagteken deur verskeie watersektor-rolspelers, insluitend die landbousektor. Boere moes sedert 12 Januarie 2018 in baie gevalle sonder hul regmatige watertoedeling klaarkom as gevolg van nasionaal-ingestelde en streng toegepaste waterbeperkings. Dit het aanleiding gegee tot geweldige verliese en ontbering vir die landbougemeenskap, insluitend werksverliese vir seisoenale plaaswerkers.

Hoewel dit klaarblyklik gewone Kapenaars se aandag op die erns van die huidige droogte gevestig het, is dit moontlik dat hierdie scenario toevallig ook sy eie onvoorsiene waterbestuurskrisis geskep het. Paniekbevange inwoners (wat dit kon bekostig) het begin om rou- sowel as behandelde water op te berg in afwagting van Dag Zero. Hierdie ontwrigting van normale verbruikspatrone het geweldige probleme vir die Stad se waterbeplanners asook die Departement van Water en Sanitasie geskep.

Hoewel die Stad erken dat sy beraming van watervoorsiening hersien is as gevolg van ‘n vermindering in die landbou se waterverbruik, het dit versuim om erkenning te gee aan die landbousektor se volgehoue

pogings in dié verband of die rampspoedige effek van die droogte op die landbousektor. Volgens Agri SA se hoof van Natuurlike Hulpbronne, Janse Rabie, skep die aankondiging (en herroeping) van Dag Zero die indruk dat dit ‘n vals alarm was waarvoor die landbousektor nou moet betaal.

“Terwyl ons dankbaar is dat Dag Zero nou blykbaar afgeweer is, moet mense besef dat die huidige droogte geensins verby is nie. Dit bly steeds ‘n nasionale ramp wat veral in die landbousektor van die Wes-Kaap by die dag erger word. Ons versoek alle regeringsvlakke om deurgaans te fokus op die erns van die droogte en om die kritieke droogtehulpmaatreëls vir die landbousektor te verbeter,” se Rabie.

Terwyl Dag Zero blykbaar afgeweer is, sleep die droogte in die provinsie en die Stad voort. Die Nasionale Waterbeperkings van 12 Januarie 2018, sowel as die Stad se Vlak 6b Waterbeperkings, is steeds in plek en mense is gevra om te voldoen aan die voorskrifte, onder andere ‘n beperking op hul persoonlike waterverbruik, d.w.s. hoogstens 50 liters per persoon per dag.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Navrae

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DAY ZERO MAY BE AVOIDED IN CAPE TOWN

Earlier today, DA leader Mmusi Maimane, announced at a press briefing that the predicted Day Zero scenario for the City of Cape Town may be avoided during the current year. The Day Zero scenario was used as a planning tool by the City of Cape Town as an indication as to when the City’s water supply was expected to fail because of the ongoing drought plaguing the City.

Day Zero was initially expected to arrive at 22 April but was shortly afterwards revised to 12 April. It was later pushed back to 16 April, then 11 May, 4 June, 9 July and has now been cancelled indefinitely. The City had prepared extensive contingency plans around the mobilisation of resources to supply citizens with 25 litres of potable water per person per day to be collected at certain designated locations throughout the City.

The City’s use of the Day Zero scenario had previously been questioned by various water-sector role players, including the agricultural sector. In many cases farmers have since 12 January 2018 had to make do with almost none of their allocated water because of Nationally-imposed and strictly-enforced water restrictions. This has lead of enormous losses and hardship for the agricultural community, including job losses for seasonal farm labourers.

While it clearly had the effect of focussing ordinary Capetonians’ attention on the severity of the prevailing drought, the use of the Day Zero scenario may also inadvertently have created its own unforeseen water management crisis. Panicked persons (who could afford to do so) began buying and stockpiling both raw and treated water in anticipation of Day Zero realising. This disruption of normal consumption patterns created enormous difficulties for City water planners as well as the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Although the City previously acknowledged that its estimations of its water supply were revised because of agriculture's reduced consumption, it has failed to acknowledge agriculture's concerted efforts in this regard or the disastrous effects of the drought on the agricultural sector. According to Agri SA's Head of Natural Resources, Janse Rabie, the use (and now withdrawal) of the Day Zero scenario creates the impression the City may have cried wolf too soon and that the agricultural sector now has to pay for that action.

"While we are happy that Day Zero now appears to have been averted, people should realise that the current drought is by no means over. It remains a National Disaster which, particularly for the agricultural sector in the Western Cape, becomes worse with each passing day. We implore all spheres of government to maintain their focus on the severity of this drought and to step up the critical drought relief measures for the agricultural sector" said Rabie

While the imminent threat of Day Zero appears to have been averted, the prevailing drought in the Province and the City continues. Both the National Water Restrictions of 12 January 2018 as well as the City's Level 6b Water Restrictions remain in place and citizens are implored to adhere to the requirement of, amongst other things, limiting their personal water consumption to no more than 50 litres per person per day.

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