

This is how Cape Town's water collection points will work

By Petru Saal

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Save water or queue for water: that was the blunt message to Capetonians at a city council Day Zero briefing on Sunday, 28 January. City officials said 200 points of distribution, or pods, would be activated when dam levels - currently 27.2% - reached 13.5%. Each individual would get an allowance of 25 litres a day.



Image source: www.pixabay.com

Director of safety and security Richard Bosman said the water supply to residential areas would be reduced or cut off in an attempt to stretch the remaining water for as long as possible and minimise the impact on human life and jobs.

The pods would be equipped with toilets and refuse management facilities because queues were expected to be long, he said. And bulk water supply would be made available to organisations delivering to the vulnerable.

"We have been approached by organisations wanting to deliver water to old-age homes," Bosman said.

Pods would operate for 12 hours, though the hours would be extended if there were still long queues. "We are revisiting our position on (not cutting off) informal settlements, especially where there is large-scale abuse," he said.

The mayoral committee member for safety and security JP Smith, said: "We are entering a phase where we are entering the real possibility of a Day Zero. If we get to a Day Zero scenario, we will handle it confidently. Queueing will be

unpleasant, but we handle our disasters smoothly in the city."

Smith said no one would be turned away from a water distribution point. Residents would be able to collect water as proxies for those unable to make it, but there would be an individual limit of 100 litres.

"Water collection points will be pedestrian and vehicular depending on typography," he said. "There will be ample hands on deck [at collection points]. Health services, traffic officials, metro police as well as SAPS and SANDF members will be present at the collection points."

Smith said 20 safety officials would be present at low-risk collection sites and up to 70 at those classified high risk.

He added that water in industrial and commercial areas would not be switched off.

Source: The Times

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