



WAGING

A WAR ON LEAKS

The War on Leaks programme launched in August 2018 sought to address the massive impact that water leaks and burst pipes have on the economy and South Africa's dwindling water resources.

In addition to the job opportunities for unemployed youth in the country, the programme was established to train water agents equipped to visit communities where water leaks could be investigated and to educate community members on the importance of saving water.

At a special joint MinMec (Ministers and MECs) meeting held on 17 January 2020, co-chaired by the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, and her COGTA counterpart, Dr Nkosasana Dlamini-Zuma, a decision was taken to give renewed impetus to the programme.

The ability of young people to enter the workplace with a sound understanding of business principles and the skills required in the fight to protect the country's water resources are critical to these young people taking their rightful place in the economy, which in itself is a major milestone for the project.

WATER LOSS IN SA:



R7.2 Billion/Year
36% of municipal water



Dripping Tap
3 litres/day - 20 000 litres/year (size of a small swimming pool)



Burst Water Pipe
400l/hour (2 full baths)



Leaking Toilet
130 to 750 litres a day



SA Faces a 17% Deficit
between supply and demand by 2030

Phase	Enrolled	Completions	WCWDM Skills Programme	Water Agents Programme	Artisan Programme	Permanently Employed to Date
WoL: Phase 1 Commenced September 2015	3 000	✓	2 555	910	952	Water Agents: 44 Artisans: 93
WoL: Phase 2 Commenced August 2016	12 000 CVs from the 41 priority municipalities ENROLLED 7000	✓	6 959	3 865	531	Water Agents: 92 Artisans: 40

Course Content	Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WCWDM) Learner Certification	DURATION	Social Interventions: Community awareness programmes
		3 MONTHS	Economic Interventions: Incentives, subsidies, billing processes and funding
			Technical Interventions: Direct and immediate reduction of water losses, wastage and inefficient use
	The Water Agent Programme	On this programme, learners are trained to complete the Water and Waste Water Reticulation Services qualification over a one-year period. A period of six months is allocated to institutional training during which the learners undergo classroom training and practical work at Water Boards and Municipalities. A further six months are allocated to workplace training.	Legislative/Institutional Interventions: Enforcement of penalties and capacity building to monitor
	The Artisan Programme	The War on Leaks programme trains learners for the electrical, fitter and turner, welding, instrumentation and plumbing trades. The curricula differ according to the trades. The duration of the institutional training for Artisans is six months and the workplace training takes 18-24 months, depending on the requirements of the trade that the learner has enrolled in. Once the learners have completed workplace training, a period of four to six weeks is used to prepare the learners for the trade test. Successful completion of the trade test is required for certification.	<i>On completion of the WCWDM skills programme, learners embark on either the Water Agent or Artisan programme.</i>