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UCT community urged to step up water saving measures

Discussions on the University of Cape Town's response to Day Zero have begun and the university is developing contingency plans.

The university has set up a Water Task Team to address and manage the impact of the drought on UCT. The team has implemented a number of initiatives already, including raising awareness, publishing articles on the water crisis in Cape Town, capturing storm water, identifying and mapping water meters on the campuses and ensuring that digital water meters are installed on the main campus.

UCT is also concluding a survey of water usage and developing a detailed water management plan for UCT in the short and medium term. This will be developed in line with discussions with the City of Cape Town.

The university is engaging with multiple stakeholders, and particularly the City, on how UCT could continue operations if Cape Town reached Day Zero. UCT is in the process of appointing a consulting company and added capacity to assist us in developing detailed contingency plans for UCT's response to Day Zero. This will include plans for different scenarios we might face at Day Zero such as no water, restricted water supply, the use of alternate water sources, etc. This added strategic and technical capacity will bring enhanced leadership and implementation related to ongoing water management on the campus.

While the university is putting these measures in place, the executive has reiterated the appeal for members of the UCT community to contribute to water-saving efforts in every way possible, every day on campus. Each department has been asked to appoint a water champion who will lead that department's efforts in saving water.

ENDS

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