



DIRE STRAITS

Western Cape authorities have warned of an impending drought across the province. The South African Weather Services (SAWS) is predicting lower than average rainfall for a second consecutive year.

The provincial Department of Local Government says water management systems are lagging behind in a number of municipalities, contributing to the extent of the water crises.

The Knysna Municipality had only days of water left (as of the 23rd January) with Premier Alan Winde requesting a Provincial Disaster Declaration from national government.

However - The Joint Operations Committee (JOC) tasked with overseeing Knysna's water situation reported that the level of the Akkerkloof Dam has increased from 15% to 20.9%. Current water usage in Knysna is approximately 10.1 kilolitres per day, translating into a water buffer of 17 days. This is a notable improvement from the 10-day buffer reported just two weeks ago.

Winde addressed a media briefing in Cape Town.

"We have a number of towns that are definitely in the disaster space where they themselves are also calling for a local disaster. Now, we will be calling for a provincial disaster primarily because of Knysna where they are getting down to days without water. Also, you can see other towns in the region are under huge pressure in the Garden Route, in the Karoo. So, the disaster declaration enables us to put further emergency mechanisms in place," says Winde.

Johan van den Berg - a Free State-based independent agricultural meteorologist, and Giel Hugo - a specialist weather forecaster from the Overberg, agree that the Western Cape is probably entering a drier cycle.

"Looking at the statistics for the Western Cape, the period between 2012 and 2016 was relatively wet, but from 2017 onwards, it became drier. A wetter period then followed from 2019 to 2024. Now, in 2025, weather patterns are beginning to resemble those of 2017," Hugo said.

"In addition, climate models indicate that these areas can expect drier conditions."

Hugo also pointed to a third indicator, the level of solar activity, which suggests conditions may become drier.

"Solar activity has already peaked and is now on a downward slope. Historically, periods of lesser solar activity have coincided with drier-than-normal conditions," he explained.

He added that a clearer picture of the winter rainfall outlook will emerge between January and March, when the strength, frequency, and orientation of cold fronts from the polar vortex will indicate the winter ahead.

In Uniondale we have many farmers in need, the rain shortage has left many farms without grazing for their livestock and thus no livelihood for the farmers. Thankfully for this region the BIN - Boere In Nood organisation has stepped in to help. A non profit, they started in November 2015 to help farmers during times of drought and other natural disasters. Created to help, but only with public participation and individual donations can the group be of service. An organisation of people, for people. Join the Boere in Nood Groep on Facebook and see how you can make a difference to desperately struggling farmers.

Paar boodskappe van die boere in UNIONDALE:

Dankie vir julle effort. Van my skape het al begin vrek deur gifplante wat hulle vreet.

Ek het net 28 skape oor...

Ek en my pa het net 26 beeste en 30 skape oor. Ons het die meeste verkoop toe ek moes begin voer in Oktober laas jaar.

Add as my seun, ons benodig dringend voer die diere is maer en siek...

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BOERE IN NOOD (BIN), 'n NIE WINSGEWENDE ORGANISASIE, registrasienuommer, 164-418, is in November 2015 gestig om boere wat gebuk gaan onder droogte en ander natuurrampe, by te staan, maar afgesien van die direkteure en helpers by BIN, is BIN ek en jy, die publiek. DIT IS NET ONS WAT DIE BOERE KAN HELP.

CREDITS : FARMERS WEEKLY, BOERE IN NOOD.

THANK YOU TO DAVKOR AND ALL OUR ADVERTISERS FOR MAKING THIS EDITION POSSIBLE!

* R5.00 * theuniondalepost@gmail.com *

HOE OM AFRIKAANSE IDIOME OPTIMAAL TE GEBRUIK

"Voor jy dalk hond se gedagtes kry dat ek muisneste het en kattedwaad aanvang deur 'n kat in die donker te knyp, kan ek die aap uit die mou laat dat jy nie hond haaraf gaan maak nie. Die kool is eenvoudig nie die sous werd nie, jy wil verniet die bobbejaan agter die bult gaan haal, ek is nie 'n vroetelvarkie nie.

Omdat ek twee linkervoete en rooi haakskene het, dans ek soos 'n kat op 'n warm plaat. Terwyl ek oor die onderdeur loer, stem my aand- en môrepraatjies nie ooreen nie en sing ek 'n ander deuntjie. Ek sing dan soos 'n kanarie. Ek weet dat die voëltjie wat saans die laaste fluit, soggens eerste deur die kat gevang word, daarom gaan ek saam met die hoenders slaap en lank voor hanekraai klim ek met die verkeerde voet uit die bed om my eiertjie te lê.

Dit het die naweek katte en honde gereën, maar ons hou darem nog kop bo water. Dit staan egter soos 'n paal bo water dat dit nie nodig is om water met 'n mandjie aan te dra nie. Voor die son water getrek het en die perde horings gekry het, moet ek nie 'n gegewe perd in die bek kyk nie, ek moet die ou koeie uit die sloot grawe, die bul by die horings pak sodat die agteros in die kraal kan kom. Ek moet ook al my varkies op hok sit en daar by oom Daantjie se kalwerhok die kalf uit die put gaan haal.

As jy wors in die hondehok soek, onthou dat blaffende honde nie byt nie. Ek wou nog katte skiet, maar toe is die koeël deur die kerk en ek kry wingerdgriep. Dit was 'n bitter pil om te sluk. Ek was hoog in die takke, want ek het gehoor dat die hoogste bome die meeste wind vang. As die appel nie ver van die boom val nie, kan 'n mens die boom aan sy vrugte ken.

Ek kon nie die kar voor die perde span nie, en het toe maar twee rye spore geloop.

In die dorp het hulle gesê ek speel op Avbob se stoep en dat ek een van die dae 'n houtpak gaan aantrek.

Ek het gesê dat ek met 'n goue lepel in die mond gebore is en dat ek nog nie die lepel in die dak gaan steek en boedel oorgee nie. Ek moet rondborstig erken dat die spyker in my doodskis, is dat bloed kruip waar dit nie kan loop nie.

As jy brood in die sweet van jou aangesig eet, moet jy nie met 'n mond vol tande staan nie, jy moet hare op jou tande hê, jy moet jou hand aan die ploeg slaan en die strydbyl begrawe. Weet jy hoe die vurk in die hef steek? As jy wolf skaapwagter maak, moet jy almal oor dieselfde kam skeer."

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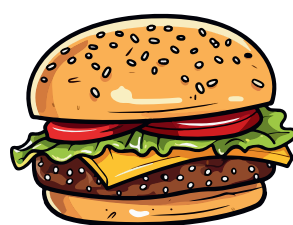
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PUB LUNCH 12:00 -14:00
R100
Homemade Chicken Pie or Beef Pie with Chips and Gravy

TUESDAY AND SATURDAY
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Thursday
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Chicken Strips with chips and salad or
Chicken Livers with Mash
Friday

Hungry Ghost Platter R180
PUB LUNCH 12:00-1400
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A DRY SABBATH IN UNIONDALE BY AI GROK AND TEWED RETSROV

The sun beat down mercilessly on Uniondale that Saturday morning, the kind of heat that made the air shimmer over the cracked asphalt of Main Street. It had been a brutally dry spell lately, with the Karoo dust clinging to everything from the faded signs of Die Rooi Winkel to the rusted gates of Vryheids Kerk. Folks in town whispered about the drought stretching all the way to the edges of the community, where the reservoirs were dipping low, and the sheep were getting skittish. But life trudged on, as it always did in this corner of the Western Cape.

Jesus had walked into town quietly a few days back, staying with some locals on Victoria Street. Word was he was a teacher from up north, with a way of speaking that cut through the noise like a cool breeze on a scorcher. That Sabbath, he made his way to Vryheids Kerk, the old Reformed spot where the community gathered for services. The pews were half-full with the usual crowd: Ouman Frederickus dozing in the back, San and Piet chatting about the latest rugby scores, and Maria keeping an eye on her fidgety kids.

As the service kicked off, Jesus stepped up to read from the scrolls—well, in this day and age, it was more like flipping through a worn Bible, but he spoke the words with such fire. He talked about freedom, about chains breaking, about a kingdom that wasn't bound by the dust and drought. The congregation leaned in, stunned. Usually, Pastor Whaley's sermons meandered like the dry riverbed outside town, but this? This had authority, like the man was commanding the words themselves.

Then, from the middle rows, Jacob erupted. He was a quiet guy normally, worked at the local grocery Shop on Parliament Street, but lately he'd been off—whispers of bad deals, maybe some substances from the area creeping in. He stood up, eyes wild, shouting, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

The church went dead silent, save for the creak of wooden benches. Maria clutched her bag, and Ouman Frederickus snapped awake. Jesus didn't flinch. He turned, voice steady as steel: "Be quiet! Come out of him." Jacob convulsed, letting out a guttural yell that echoed off the high ceilings, then collapsed in a heap, breathing heavy but... clear. No harm done, just a man sitting there, rubbing his temples as he'd woken from a nightmare. The demon was gone, whatever it was—folks later called it the weight of the world, or maybe something darker from the dry times.

Word spread like wildfire through Uniondale's streets. By lunchtime, people were buzzing on Roper Street, texting and calling: "Did you hear what happened at Vryheids Kerk? That teacher from up north cast out whatever was tormenting Jacob!"



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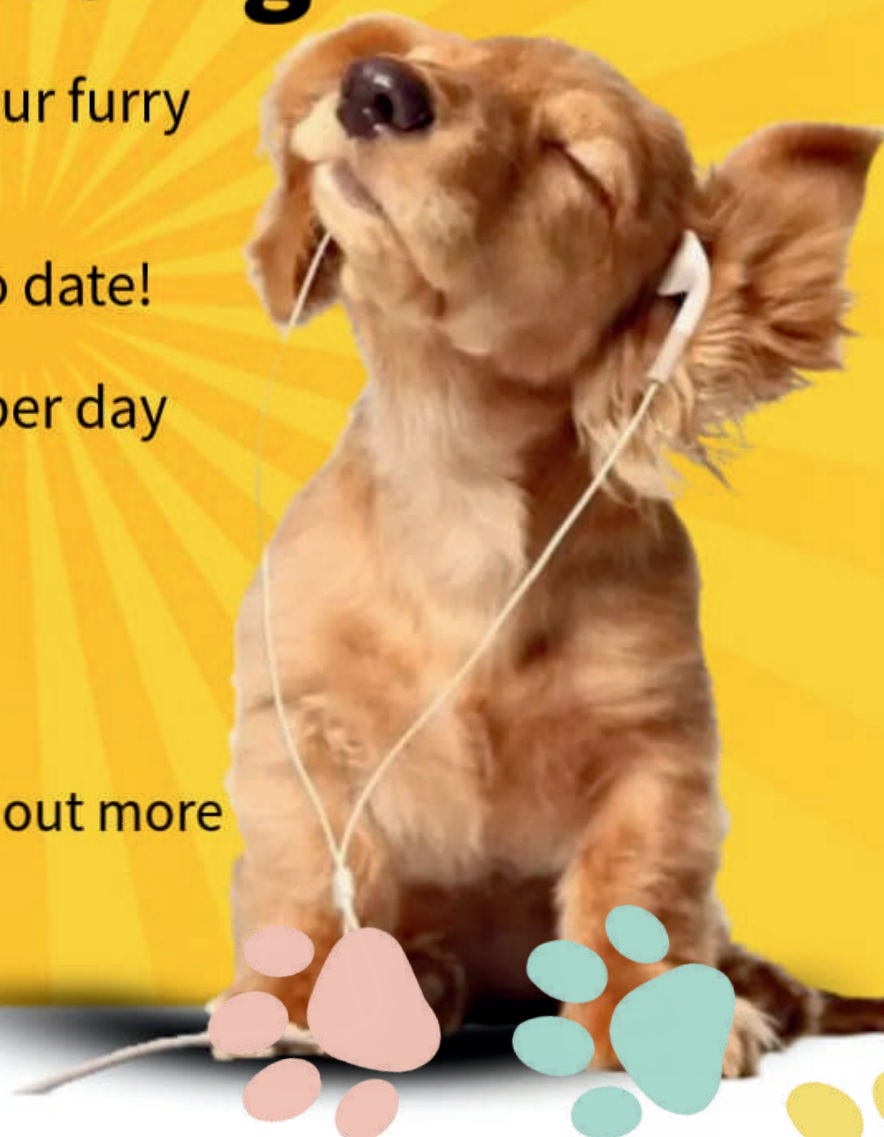
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Saint Valentine's Day, or simply Valentine's Day, is celebrated on the 14th of February, almost internationally but primarily in western societies. It is a commemorative Christian feast for some but a secular occasion for others who see it as a day to celebrate affection in all of its forms but primarily romantic love. The day has been named after one or more martyrs of the early Christian era named Valentine or Valentinus who lived sometime in the 3rd century CE and was killed for defying oppressive laws directed either against Christians or young lovers in the Roman Empire. Valentine's death became symbolic during and after the Christianization of the Roman Empire, and later on, the character developed a correlation with romantic love throughout Europe, and then the idea spread almost internationally.

SYED MUHAMMAD KHAN

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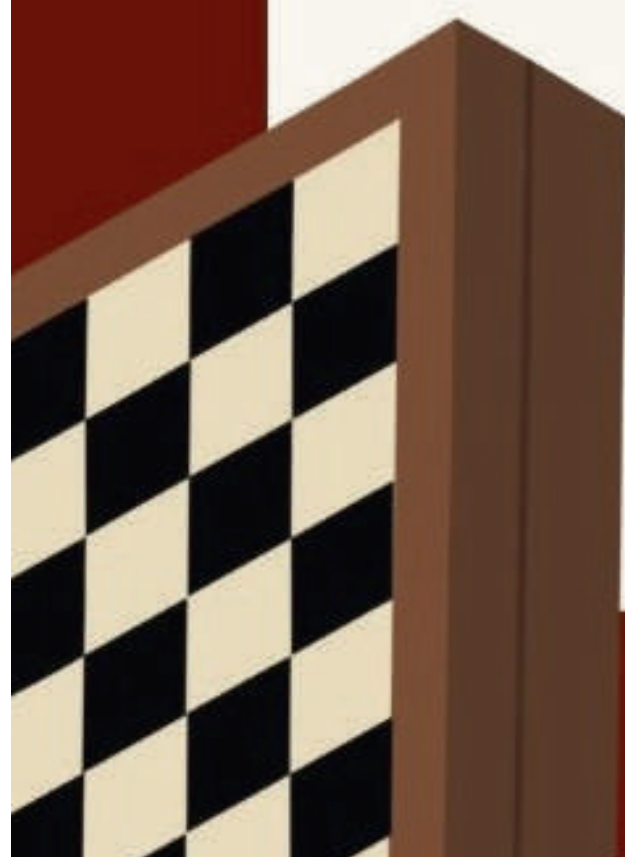
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Maar kan iemand asseblief vir my verduidelik hoe om deesdae met 'n vrou te gesels? Ek moet elke liewe woord twee keer omdraai 'just in case I offend you'. So nou sit ons op die stoep tjoepstil en dan is ek 'weird' omdat ek niks se nie. Liewe vader gee vir my die sterkte om met hierdie online dating nonsens voort te gaan.

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