

Alexander Knobloch 8N

Cape Town successfully reached Day Zero - was this an opportunity or a challenge for South Africans?

This was both an opportunity and a challenge for the South Africans. The challenging part about this was that the South Africans were told to use 50 litres a day which is less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of what the average American uses. When day 0 comes they will have to use less than 25 litres a day. It's also been challenging because it was very unexpected. In 2014 they had 6 full dams, but after 3 years of drought and climate change they were around 26% full in 2018. Officials plan to shut off the taps when they reach 13.5%. The government told people to not use taps to fill up pools, wash cars and water gardens. The problem is that people aren't willing to give up their water supply as they feel that they are entitled to water as they pay taxes. When the taps do switch off there will only be 200 stations to be shared between 4,000,000 people.

Although there are many challenges there are also a lot of opportunities to create new ways of getting water for the future. Peaks around the Tabletop mountain trap wet ocean winds and experts are hoping that they can use these as a water supply. Desalination plants will eventually let people drink from the sea but that isn't likely to be ready on time. New wells are constantly being built but that isn't likely to be ready in time either.

Although there are opportunities to create new water supplies for the future they might not be ready in time and with climate change long droughts in dry areas will become much more common.