

Power outages drought blamed for dry taps at Cradock prison

TEMBILE SGQOLANA

tembiles@dispatch.co.za

Inmates at the Cradock correctional services prison are spending their days without water to bath or even flush the

toilets in their cells.

The jail has about 500 inmates, with up to 40 of the inmates sharing a cell.

The facility at Oukop is being hit by water shortages caused by drought ravaging Chris Han

district municipality (CHDM).

CHDM spokesperson Thobeka Mqamelo said Cradock was getting its water from the Fish River, but as the day heated up, water usage increased, causing a drop in pressure.

Municipal water was not reaching the prison and other areas such as Hillside.

Correctional services spokesperson Thandokazi Marwanqa said the department was on top of the situation.

They had installed four 5,000l tanks, which were easing the water outages.

Marwanqa said the shortages were caused by power outages in Inxuba Yethemba local municipality, starting in 2018.

The Daily Dispatch spoke with three people working in the prison who disputed that water was available at all times.

“Water comes and goes all the time. Today it only came at 1pm

after it went off on Monday. We don’t get answers from the municipality,” said one employee.

Another worker said public works officials had visited and “raised that we need reservoirs because of this problem”.