Publication: Citizen (Johannesburg Edition)

Date: Friday, November 29, 2019

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Drought here to stay – so save water

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Drought conditions are the new normal, which means people must change their relationship with water, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Patricia de Lille said yesterday at the launch of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan.

The Hammanskraal community has been battling with contaminated water since at least 2015, according to their lawyer.

Although there was appar-

ently improvement in the past six months, according to Soretha Venter, legal project manager at Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, the water was still unsafe.

"Our most recent sample report indicated that there is no E. coli in the water, however, there were high traces of, for example, ammonia and acid soluble manganese."

Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu's acknowledgement of the "severe" challenges facing her department was welcomed. "These include climate change and the slow pace of implementation, which has left three million people without basic water services," said Christine Colvin of World Wide Fund SA.

Water didn't simply come from a tap, De Lille said. "We can all make it our everyday lives to conserve water."

The master plan for water and sewage was the result of meeting with "a range of stakeholders", Sisulu said.