



Day Zero Looming for Cape Town but “instances of hardship elicit ease”

The Clairmont Main Road Mosque (CMRM) as part of its water saving action plan, have placed jugs of water in the ablution area and stopped the water supply from the taps, according to Imam Dr A Rashied Omar. Congregants have been recommended to perform ablution by washing only the obligatory (fard) parts of the body (face, hands to elbows, head and feet) once instead of thrice, and in this way demonstrated that less than half a cup of water could be used to perform the ritual ablution.

“In 2018 the water crisis has now officially escalated to the level of disaster and we are hurtling towards Day Zero when the City of Cape Town will shut down its water reticulation supply in residential areas. CMRM has therefore taken further steps to conserve water.

“We have closed the hand basin taps in our toilet area, and replaced them with jugs of water. We also recommend that Muslims make a greater effort to save water by beginning to adopt the alternative mode of ritual ablution, the dry ablution (known as tayammum). The dry ablution is a legitimate Islamic alternative and can be performed in preparation for the ritual prayer and other acts of worship instead of ablution with water. This recommendation is based on clear evidence from the Qur’an in Chapter 5, verse 6, where Allah proclaims: “if you cannot obtain water [for ablution] then obtain for yourselves fine earth or sand and wipe your faces and hands with it. God does not want to make it hard and difficult for you, but wants to make you pure and clean”.



The Qur’anic teaching of the dry ablution embodies the Prophet Muhammad’s (pbuh) practice of ease in the face of hardship. He worked tirelessly to establish this principle of ease to alleviate hardship and frequently reminded his

followers that: “The Religion (of Islam) is easy. Any worshipper who becomes severe in adhering to the teachings of this religion will be overwhelmed. Therefore, do not be extreme in your devotions. Rather, seek to perform acts of worship to the best of your ability”.

Mindful of this central teaching of Islam, all the major schools of Islamic law recognize the “principle of ease” as an essential part of Islamic jurisprudence. Among the legal maxims in Islamic jurisprudence one rule states: “instances of hardship elicit ease”.

“This rule implies that whenever a hardship confronts a believer then the “principle of ease” applies. This rule applies to the water crisis we are currently experiencing. We therefore recommend that all Muslim citizens adopt the performance of the dry ablution, using fine earth, sand or clay, for ritual prayers in the current dire circumstances of a water shortage. Muslims do not have to wait for the taps to run dry, before embracing the dry ablution. The current water crisis should be sufficient to warrant its legitimacy,” said Imam Dr Omar.

He also added, “Water plays an essential role in the lives of Muslims, not only because Islam encourages high standards of cleanliness and personal hygiene, but also because purification through ablution is a pre-requisite for performing the five daily ritual prayers.

“Legally, the wudu entails a ritual of washing the hands, mouth, nose, face, head, ears, arms to elbows, and feet to ankles, each three times, at least five times a day. If, for example, a minimum of one litre of water were used for each ablution, this would already contribute to five litres of a Muslim’s daily water consumption.

“Bearing this in mind, and considering the Water Crisis in the City of Cape Town, which started three years ago, the Clairmont Main Road Mosque (CMRM) immediately took modest steps to conserve this precious resource and embarked on a robust water-saving educational campaign,” he said.

Imam Dr A Rashied Omar ended with a prayer “We pray that God, the Lord of Compassion, will soon bless us with abundant rain and bring relief from the drought-stricken conditions faced by our City and large parts of the country. May we always remain good stewards of nature’s gifts.” It’s a prayer and message we all need to adopt and support whatever initiative there is to ease the hardship which not only affects man but animals and plants as well.



Drought has United SA, says Cultural Icon Bhai Azad

South Africans have been united by the severe drought, which has wreaked havoc in Cape Town and other areas of the country, according to cultural icon, Bhai Azad. He said that despite the differences and prejudices among the people, they have come together “in cash and kind” to bring relief to the millions of people who have been hit by the drought. “I am truly amazed the manner and intensity with which so many people are contributing to help those affected by the water shortages. I have drilled a borehole on my property in Riverside Durban, installed a state of the art bottling plant and am pumping tens of thousands of liters, which I am sending to Cape Town. This is only one effort, there are others who are contributing in cash, providing trucks to transport supplies to the affected areas and then there are those who are sending money,” said Mr Azad.

His neighbours are also busy at work; they have a well, which was established more than a century ago. Work crews are working day and night to pumping water from a well at the Soofie Darbar in Riverside in Durban and then shipping it out to Cape Town to provide supplies for the poor in the drought stricken city. So far an entire articulated truck and trailer has delivered tens of thousands of litres and this week another truckload arrived in Cape Town. According to Mr Rashid Dawood water would be pumped out, processed and filled into five-liter containers and sent to Cape Town as long as the Darbar receive donations from the public. “We are sending as much as we can Cape Town for those who cannot afford to buy supplies and we hope that this would help bring some relief to the many people who would be left without water.”

The Gift of the Givers have drilled five boreholes in the Witperd area of Beaufort West providing 250 000 litres per day into the Gamka Dam pipeline. Beaufort West now have a constant supply from boreholes. Drilling has started in De Doorns and will be

extended to Tous Rivier, Tulbagh, Bonnievale and Ceres soon. Three additional boreholes have been drilled in the Walker Dam area which provides another 100 000 litres per day to the town. Huis Hesperos and Huis Johannes (both homes for the elderly) in Beaufort West now have a constant supply from boreholes. Bottled water was delivered to and has been stored in Laingsburg.

CEO of the Gift of Givers, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman said the organisations drought intervention programme in Cape started last year. "Gift of the Givers appreciates the huge effort underway for the collection of bottled water, the cash contributions, sponsorship of boreholes, Jojo tanks, warehousing space and free transport. Forty million Rand in fodder was delivered to hundreds of farmers; 4000 food parcels were distributed to farm labourers who lost their jobs because of the drought," he said.

Officials visited Khayelitsha Hospital

to assess needs and Community leaders have been engaged as to priorities needs. Tygerberg Hospital and Maitlands Cottage Children's Orthopaedic Hospital have also requested assistance.

A water engineer in Durban, Mr Mohamed Vawda said the current Water Shortage Crisis in Cape Town is a reminder for each of us to value and appreciate one of the most important and life preserving resources that God Almighty has blessed us with Water. "With clean running and relatively cheap 'water on tap' being easily available to most of the population living in urban areas over the last few decades, this valuable resource has been taken for granted, with consequent wastage and abuse. We are commanded to "use water sparingly even if we are in a stream of flowing water," which clearly highlights our obligation to utilise this valuable resource in a responsible manner. Southern Africa

is regarded as a water scare region, with limited available surface water resources due to the relatively low average annual rainfall levels. With ever increasing water demands we have reached a point where the total water demand requirement in SA has reached, and in many areas exceeds the available surface water resources. The Government has plans to build more dams, ground water abstraction schemes and desalination projects, however there is a huge backlog in developing these bulk water projects due to funding constraints. Therefore 'Water Conservation and Demand Management' has been recognised to be an effective and sustainable intervention to mitigate against this challenge of balancing water supply availability with water consumption demand. A paradigm shift in terms of lifestyle changes is necessary for our future survival. Every citizen needs to be involved "Vawda said.

Ashraf Motala- Dispensing hope to parents and patients alike

Parenting in the 21st century comes with great challenges and one way to success is to motivate your children to do what they love doing most, this is what Mr Ashraf Motala, a health professional said during an interview on Radio -Al Ansaar's 90 Minutes talk show this week. He said that young people need to be motivated and that parents must develop a meaningful relationship with their children to enable them to make the best choices in life.

"Our kids are our friends. The discipline and love is there. But we have to expose them to the outside world. We need to guide them from a distance. In our day, our parents were strict, rigid and authoritarian. That does not work these days and nor will it in the future.



"The home is where families are built and children are an integral part of our lives. I have two daughters at university and an equal number of sons who are teenagers and still at school. I know that I consistently have to encourage and motivate them.

"When I get up in the morning, I am full of zest. I look forward to spending the day as meaningful and positively as possible. My children see this and they follow my example. As parents today, we need to realize that this is a world of every changing technology, which includes computers, cell phones, and a host of electronic gadgets.

"The influences are many and as parents we need to make sure that we are in touch with our children. I personally encourage and motivate them to do what they love most as well as where their strengths lie. I want them to be in a happy space," said Mr Motala who owns a pharmacy in Victoria Street, which is opposite the Indian Market.

He was born in the area, the family home being a flat at the corner of Cross and Victoria Streets. As a boy, he attended Anjuman

School in Leopold Street before enrolling at Orient High where he spent a year. He moved next door to the then Gandhi Desai because it offered science subjects. He said that he had a flair for science subjects and felt that he would be able to have a wider choice of career options. "I am half a business man and half a pharmacist and I have been able to combine both into a successful career which I find rewarding, valuable and it gives me a space which I find engaging," said Mr Motala.

His pharmacy is unlike any other in the Grey Street Complex, for apart from serving a very broad spectrum of customers; rural communities from outside the city come to his establishment for medication for their life stock. "We have a trained staff to deal with queries and here too, we use technology and ask our customers to send us photographs, video clips and we have consultations and while the process might be time consuming, we get the results.

Asked if he were given the opportunity to be the Minister of Health for one day, what would be his priority, he said in a flash, "To get the vital machinery in Public Hospitals working again." He explained that there were many essential machines, which had broken down, and are not longer in use because the authorities do not have the funds to get the equipment repaired. "Some of those machines are vital and without that treatment, it could be detrimental and fatal for certain patients. I would want to get those vital, life saving treatment facilities working again. Also I would like to see the public health system being effective. I served as an intern at King Edward V111 Hospital and know the suffering of the so-called previously dis-advantaged people. The system needs to be upgraded and made to work.

"I see it everyday in my own business, daily we get people coming in and most of them are suffering from HIV/Aids. At times it is the father, or mother or even both of them. Sadly, at times even the children. As a pharmaceutical service we counsel them, dispense them the medication they need and educate them about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. But still we have a huge problem and my staff and I face this challenging situation daily. But I believe that we are slowly getting on top of this pandemic. People are more educated about their status, responding in a positive way when it comes to lifestyles, the kind of diet they are now adopting and taking their medication regularly. I believe that one day we will get there," said Mr Motala.

Looking at the future, he said that young people are looking at the country and trying to establish whether their aspirations can be met. They want to remain in this beautiful country and they want to be meaningfully employed. If the crime situation and economy does not allow them, they will seek opportunities abroad. Education has a lot to do with it. No matter who we are or where we come from. For anyone to have a bright future, study is the key element. This is the springboard to a successful future," he said.

**Farook Khan - Radio Al-Ansar,
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