

Council reviews water rationing limits

The City of Bulawayo Councillors at its Council meeting of Wednesday, 4th April 2017 has approved the upward review of the water rationing limits following the heavy rains which have been received in the 2016- 2017 rainy season.

While the rationing limits will be loosened, the restrictions will remain in force as the current water supply system cannot manage to meet the unrestricted demand.

The proposed water rationing scheme for all water consumers will be as follows:-

Category of Users	Present water rationing allocation 2014	Increase in Allocation	New Allocation 2017
High density houses	500 litres/day	100 litres/day	600 litres/day
Low density houses	750 litres/day	150 litres/day	900 litres/day
Cottages, Servants Quarters			
All residential flats with bulk meters	75% of average water period ending March 2014	15% increase on present 75%	90% of average water period ending March 2014
All residential flats with individual meters	450 litres/day	50 litres/day	500 litres/day/meter
Multipurpose buildings with bulk meter	75% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase on present 75%	90% of average water period ending March 2014
Hotels,	100% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	115% of average water period ending March 2014
Hospitals and Clinics	100% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	115% of average water period ending March 2014
Industrial Consumers	95% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	1 litre/m ² /day
Water based industries	100% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	115% of average water period ending March 2014

Restaurants	100% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	115% of average water period ending March 2014
Commercial consumers, schools, churches, institutions, sports clubs etc.	100% of average water six months period ending April 2014	15% increase	115% of average water period ending March 2014
Peri urban Esigodini, Matopos, Llewellyn barracks, Sigola and Duncan villages	80% of average water six months period ending March 2014	100% increase on present 80%	100% of average water period ending March 2014
Mzinyathini Irrigation scheme	80% of entitlement (for domestic consumption only) for the six months period ending March 2014	10% decrease on present 80%	80% of entitlement (for domestic consumption only) for the six months period ending March 2014
New water connections	Connections to vacant stands and outside areas remains suspended		600 litres/day

Reporting to Council, the Director of Engineering Services, Simela Dube said that while the water rationing allocation has been increased for all areas by 15%, the 5kilolitres free water allocation per month remains in place for all residential properties.

He added that water rationing in Bulawayo has been in place since 1984 due to recurrent droughts which started since the 1980s.

“This led to the introduction of water rationing in 1984 whereby water use allocations were implemented for a particular use category,” he said.

Since the introduction of water rationing, the limits have been in force since then, with interim revision made depending on the surplus or deficit of water supply.

“The latest revision was in April 2014, in which significant inflows were received and water rationing was relaxed, following two consecutive years of drought,” said Engineer Dube.

The current water supply is expected to last the City a theoretical average of 49.3 months taking into consideration the current consumption patterns, minimal growth population and new connections from future housing projections.

Ends./