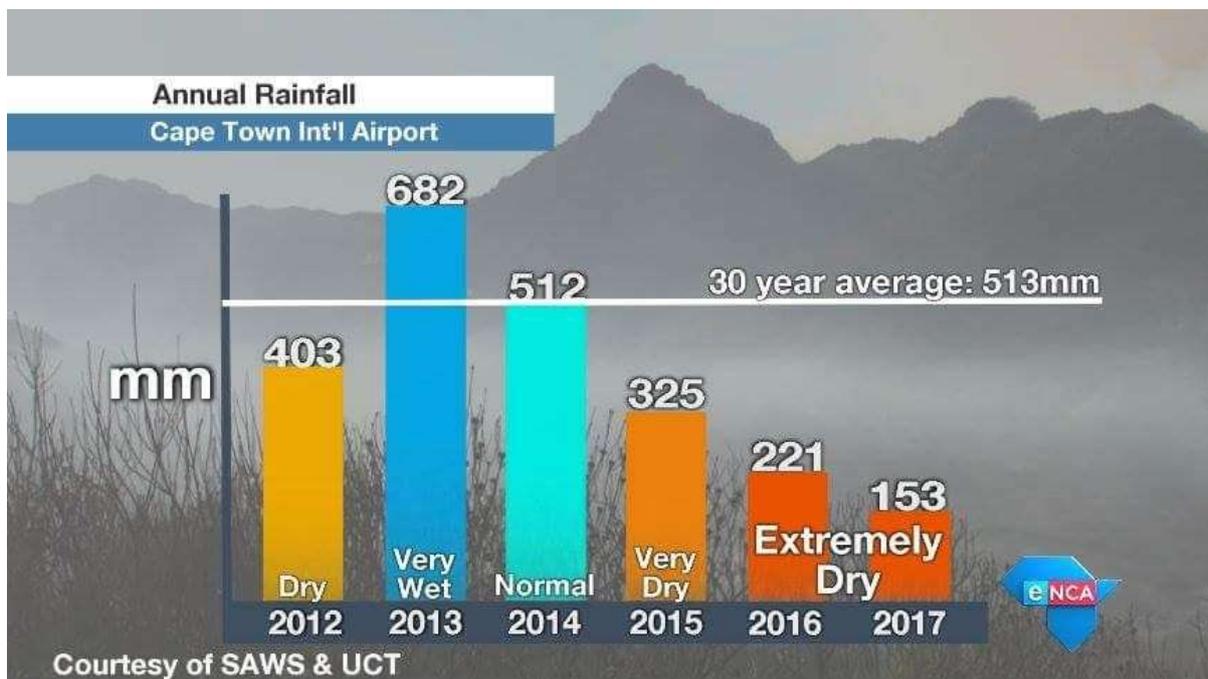


## CAPE TOWN'S WATER CRISIS: *Ubuntu – "I am because we are"*

*The only way to make it through this water shortage is to work together.*

Cape Town is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. The crisis the city is facing is real and, despite allegations of mismanagement or politics, the reality is that we have had lower than average rainfall over the last three years. In fact, according to research reports, during the course of 2017, we had the lowest rainfall in 100 years.



We are living in a water scarce environment and potentially facing a major crisis. However, as with many crises springs opportunity and we, as citizens, need to 'step up' and do what we can to help avert day zero. Unless we dramatically reduce consumption, day zero will be a reality. Given the trend in the graph above, we cannot assume that 2018 will bring better rainfall and, even if it does, it will take years to restore dam levels, so water saving is now the new dawn and we need to do everything we can to reduce our water consumption.

As a business, Personal Trust is not heavily dependent on water for its daily operations; however, we are acutely aware of the effect day zero will have on our staff and our clients. As such, we have set up a water crisis task team to address the issue and to ensure that we can continue to operate effectively should the need arise.

In the interim, the goal is to avoid day zero by managing demand. There are some amazing examples of collaboration and mobilisation within communities to reduce dependency on municipal water. We each need to ask ourselves what we can do:

- Start the conversation: Contact ward councillors in your local area to find out what is being done
- Establish a task force of like-minded individuals to drive the process in your area
- Meet with businesses, schools, vulnerable people in your neighbourhood to determine who is most in need or who can assist
- Establish the location of boreholes in your immediate area
- Plan for day zero - the water collection points will be limited and therefore need to be seen as emergency supply points. How will you as a neighbourhood/community support each other without having to be dependent on the collection points?

During the next few months, it is important to ensure the accuracy of the information you receive. There are a number of credible sources available. The City of Cape Town has recently started providing some useful water crisis information on its website, including how to reduce water consumption to 50 litres or less (<http://www.capetown.gov.za/>). Alternatively, WWF provides a weekly water update which can be found at <http://www.wwf.org.za/>.

The challenge now for each of us as individuals is to do what we can to avoid day zero and to ensure the long-term sustainability of our city.

*1 February 2018*