

CTICC works with clients to deliver water-wise events

“The Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) is hosting all our 2018 events with the same passion and dedication to service excellence.” This is the reassurance chief executive officer, **Julie-May Ellingson**, gave clients as the City of Cape Town instituted Level 6B water restrictions amidst worsening drought conditions.

The centre is working with organisers and clients to ensure major upcoming events don't place further pressure on water resources.

In a client letter, Ms Ellingson explained: “The CTICC is open for business. Our focus remains on reducing water usage wherever possible and ensuring our events run successfully and in a responsible manner.”

The CTICC started implementing water saving initiatives long before the current crisis. Over the last six years, the centre has reduced its consumption by an average of eight million litres per year.

As part of its commitment to reduce water usage and avoid Day Zero, the centre's water savings initiatives include:

- Stopping the water supply to bathroom hand-wash basins and offering hygienic, waterless hand sanitisers as alternative.
- Serving only bottled water, sourced from certified producers outside of the Western Cape.
- Using water-wise cooking methods such as steaming and augmenting the supply of water to kitchens from non-municipal sources.
- Installing 65 000 ℓ of rain water storage tanks. The water is reused for cleaning activities.
- Using the centre's air-cooling system to create water from air. This water is being collected in 10 000 ℓ capacity grey water tanks for reuse.
- Reducing dish washing and laundry loads by giving clients the option of using biodegradable crockery at events, using disposable napkins and using disposable cups at coffee shops.

The centre, which recently launched its expansion facility, CTICC 2, also advised clients that it is investing in a reverse osmosis plant.

Ms Ellingson announced: “Our appointed engineers have concluded a detailed feasibility study for a groundwater

purification plant. We are now in the design phase of the plant which will provide us with an additional 200 kℓ of water per day, far exceeding our average daily water needs.”

Even though the City's key economic areas will not be affected by a Day Zero shutdown, the CTICC is taking decisive steps to lessen its dependence on municipal, potable water and is installing additional storage tanks to provide access to 550 kℓ of water that will allow the centre to operate at full average capacity

working together this can be avoided,” Ms Ellingson said.

“As a profitable municipal entity, the CTICC sustained 7 824 South African jobs by attracting and hosting 482 events in its 2016/17 financial year adding R3.7 billion to the national economy. If we don't host events, we place these jobs at risk and households in Cape Town and across South Africa would be affected.”

The centre has a strong event line-up and has taken decisive action to reduce its water consumption.



in the event water supply is shut off. The first 200 kℓ of storage tanks will be in place by the end of this month.

Last month, the CTICC sponsored the Joint Association Member Meeting (JAMMS) of tourism and hospitality industry bodies to discuss the impact of water shortage on Cape Town's tourism industry.

“As the number one venue for international conferences in Africa, we are concerned about the potential impact of inaccurate and alarmist messaging on our industry. We are focusing a lot of our effort to explain to clients and delegates that Day Zero is not inevitable and that by

Last month, the CTICC delivered yet another successful Investing in African Mining Indaba conference – the world's largest gathering of decision-makers and stakeholders in Africa's mining sector. To limit their water usage, the Mining Indaba organisers provided 10 000 ℓ of bottled drinking water sourced from outside of the Western Cape.

Ms Ellingson reiterated: “It is critical to note that tourism supports 300 000 jobs in our city and province, and should clients and their delegates opt not to come to Cape Town, they would be placing these jobs, and the families they support, at risk.” ■