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DFFE Hosts Climate Change Adaptation Workshop in Mahikeng to Strengthen Resilience in North West

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) convened a Provincial Stakeholder Consultation on the Development of Climate Change Adaptation Scenarios on 6 August 2025 at the Protea Hotel in Mahikeng. The workshop brought together key environmental stakeholders, including the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) and the South African Weather Service (SAWS), to strengthen South Africa's resilience against climate change.

The consultation provided a critical platform for dialogue on regional vulnerabilities and long-term adaptation strategies. Officials underscored the need for intergovernmental cooperation and scientifically grounded planning to ensure meaningful progress in addressing the climate crisis.

Declining Rainfall Patterns in North West

A significant presentation from SAWS revealed alarming trends in the province's rainfall patterns between 2001 and 2023:

- A sustained decline in annual rainfall compared to other provinces.
- Increased variability and unpredictability in seasonal weather.
- Disruptions to agriculture, threatening food security and local economic stability.

Water Sector at Risk

The discussions also highlighted the severe impact of climate change on water resources. Declining rainfall and rising temperatures are putting pressure on both surface and groundwater systems, resulting in:

- Falling dam levels and aquifer depletion.
- Drought-induced hardship for farmers and rural communities.
- The urgent need for infrastructure upgrades, early warning systems, and sustainable water governance.

Path Forward

Participants collectively agreed on the importance of developing robust Climate Change Adaptation Scenarios to guide policy and decision-making across sectors, including agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and water management.

The workshop marked a decisive step toward building a more climate-resilient North West Province and contributing to South Africa's broader efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Ends.

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