

Millions in Mexico City go without water for days



Mexico City, November 2 (RHC)-- Millions of people in Mexico City are without water for at least four days as authorities undertake maintenance work on one of the major supply systems. Authorities are preparing for the huge challenge by employing tanker trucks to supply strategic areas such as schools, hospitals and prisons.

Mexico City is one of the largest metropolises in the world. The supply cut began on Wednesday and lasts until Saturday, although the system won't return to full capacity until next Thursday, November 8th.

Maintenance will be carried out on the Cutzamala engineering works that provide part of the city's water supply from Michoacan state to the west of the capital. Authorities have asked citizens to save water and only use it in moderation during the shortage days.

"What we need is to take extreme care of the water, don't wash clothes, bathe using a small bucket," said Mexico City's water system director, Ramon Aguirre. "Those with the economic means should buy disposable dishes and cups, take care of the water usage. We should not exaggerate the sense of crisis or catastrophe, we must simply prepare ourselves," Aguirre told reporters.

For some people, water shortages are nothing new, though. The Iztapalapa neighborhood, one of the poorest in Mexico City with a population of 1.8 million people, is the worst affected by shortages and

many of its citizens are used to receiving their supplies from tanker trucks.

And it's not confined to that one area, either. Of the 2.5 million homes in the city, almost 569,000 don't receive water on a daily basis, while 45,950 have no running water at all.

Mexico City's water tables, built on the swamps of the old Aztec capital Tenochtitlan, have been exploited for decades causing certain areas of the city to sink by between two and 30 centimeters a year. Some estimates also claim that 40 percent of the city's water is lost in leaks.

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