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# More water cuts as summer hits

## Larnaca and Nicosia are worst hit

By Marianna Pissa

**N**ICOSIA residents face deeper water cuts as the summer temperatures kick in.

The bad news comes amid growing resentment that residents of Nicosia and Larnaca are second class citizens when it comes to water supply, compared to the more water privileged consumers of Limassol and Paphos.

Paphos has no water cuts whatsoever, Limassol enjoys water for 60 hours a week, while Nicosia and Larnaca have only 30 hours of water a week, with no water at weekends.

The head of the Nicosia Water Board said yesterday that further cuts were inevitable:

"We can't respond to the demand due to the high weather temperatures with the result of having to cut the water supply to 10 hours instead of 12," Nicos Zambakides told the *Cyprus Mail*, adding that areas at higher altitude in Nicosia were getting much less than that with supply averaging at around eight hours every two days. "Unfortunately the quantities are such that they do not allow us to act differently."

He expressed his frustration at the unequal application of water cuts.

"The government decision was for equal cuts, and I believe the cuts should be

equal and apply to all districts. We get hundreds of calls every day from residents in Nicosia complaining they feel they are second class citizens.

"We have no boreholes, so we have to depend on the government [Water Development Department] for the water supply.

"Last year we were assigned 52,000 cubic metres of water and this year we have seventy per cent of last year's quantity. We have 36,400 cubic metres of daily supply of water so we have to divide it proportionally for 100,000 people," he added.

"The high temperatures make the demand for water very high and the average water supply will be eight hours instead of 12 with no water at the weekends in Nicosia," Zambakides said.

Senior water engineer at the Water Development Department (WDD) Vlasis Partassides admitted that, "Mr Zambakides is right. The water quantities for the Water Board are minimal and it is only natural to have cuts until the alternative water sources come into place, such as the water import from Greece. The first tanker from Greece is expected July 1. The water restrictions will be carried out up to April 2009, when the new mobile desalination unit comes online."

Things are equally grim in Larnaca.



Cleaning the amphorae which have been on the sea bed for thousands of years

## Shipwreck's treasures see light of day

PROFESSIONAL and amateur divers yesterday began the process of hauling up ancient amphorae buried onboard the Mazotos shipwreck.

The shipwreck, possibly the largest commercial ship located in open Cypriot waters, sank in 350 BC en route from the Greek island of Chios carrying around 1,000 urns filled with wine. Today it is buried 45 metres below sea level and is the oldest shipwreck found off the coast of Cyprus to date. The Kyrenia II shipwreck, found almost 50 years ago, dates back to 300 BC. The Antiquities Department said last year it was one of the very few shipwrecks of the Classical period found in such a good state of preservation.

Around 500 amphorae are visible while the remainder are believed to be buried under one or two layers of sand.

The shipwreck is guarded by the security services 24 hours around the clock. Dr Stella Demesticha, Visiting Lecturer of Underwater Archaeology at the University of Cyprus who is carrying out the research, said the find was an important event for Cyprus' history.

The project was undertaken by the Archaeology Research Unit of the University of Cyprus in agreement with the Department of Antiquities and with funding and logistical support from the Thetis Foundation. It is the first time a project of this kind has been exclusively undertaken by Cypriot institutions.

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