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Multi-stakeholder Platforms and Drought Mitigation in South Africa

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ABSTRACT South Africa is a drought-prone country and has been serially exposed to the impacts of the phenomenon. Extant literature shows government expenditure on mitigating the problems consequent upon drought. However, there is gap in literature about whether government's intervention is facilitated by a participatory process that involves relevant stakeholders in the management. The study sought to evaluate the degree of involvement of non-government actors in drought management in South Africa. The study adopted participatory resource governance as theoretical thrust and used interview and desktop method for data collection and analysis respectively. The findings of the study revealed that government has largely focused on provision of drought relief which, though important, is incapable of leading to holistic mechanism through which future drought exposure may be mitigated. The study recommends wider engagement of relevant, credible stakeholders that will allow for broad-based ideas and skills with regards to managing drought at provincial and municipal levels.