



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng makes contribution to the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan

04 July 2017

The Gauteng Provincial Regional Work Session was the meeting of the minds aimed at contributing to the development of a National Water and Sanitation Master Plan to proactively stave off a potential water and sanitation service delivery crisis.

The session, which took place at the National Disaster Management Centre in Centurion on 04 July 2017, is response to a call by Minister of Water and Sanitation for an integrated plan to meet the challenges of the water and sanitation sector to meet the challenge of water scarcity.

The session was also aimed to providing a clear and integrated plan agreed to and supported by all stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector.

In her Budget Vote last month, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane said in the development of the plan the Department has adopted an approach that was inclusive and transparent to encourage South Africans to participate and contribute to it.

Speaking during the session, Chief Director of Integrated Water Resource Planning of the Department, Mr Livhuwani Mabuda, said there was a strong desire to expedite the development of an inclusive Water and Sanitation Master Plan by various sector players including parliamentarians.

This will enable various stakeholders to workshop and make their inputs towards the final product.

He said this urgency was necessitated by the need to assure all South Africans that South Africa will not have a water and sanitation service delivery crises and that water security was achieved in the country.

He said: "This plan will also foster intergovernmental collaboration across different spheres of government which will ensure an improved delivery of reliable services to all."

He said the development of the plan would also facilitate timely refurbishment of infrastructure, its proper operation and maintenance and combating other key aspects such as non-revenue water.

Mabuda added that there was a need for greater public awareness and stakeholder and community involvement, emphasising the collaboration of accountable government authorities in the development of the plan.

Giving an overview on behalf of the DWS's Provincial Head in Gauteng relating to water in the province, Acting Vaal CEO, Dr Konanani Khorommbi, said the province was a dynamic area with a huge growth in water requirements to sustain water for social and economic activities.

Dr Khorommbi said the population of the province was growing at a rapid speed with a projected increase of 300 000 persons per annum, translating to 4, 5 million people. Currently Gauteng has a population of approximately 13 million residents.



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He said the province had limited water resources and further importing water from other provinces and Lesotho, and this water resource should be used sparingly by all consumers, reiterating that consumers were contributing to the effluent and complex water quality.

Dr Khorommbi said there were a number of measures which the Department was undertaking to ensure water security, mentioning the eradication of unlawful water use in the irrigation sector, implementation of the water conservation and demand management with focus on loss management as well as treating and using of affluent starting with mine water.

Urging municipalities to play a leading role in water management, Dr Khorommbi said: “South Africa is a water scarce country and therefore water users have to use what we have efficiently. Municipalities must prioritise and manage water conservation and demand management far better than they are currently doing.”

“Municipalities must reduce system input volume, water losses and non-revenue water in order to meet the set targets,” concluded Dr Khorommbi.

Hosia Sithole