



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane launches summit to mobilise investment into the water sector

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The Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, is on a drive to drum up support for role players to swirl the upcoming Water Infrastructure Investment and Stewardship Summit which is expected to take place later in November 2017.

Speaking to journalists during a media briefing held at Hyatt Hotel in Rosebank on 06 November 2017, Minister Mokonyane said the upcoming summit would see the convergence of experts, policy-makers and practitioners, various organisations and individuals who have a keen interest in the business of water.

The summit, which is scheduled to take place on 30 November 2017, aims to get the participation of an array of players in the water space, especially creating an enabling environment for them to invest in the water sector.

Minister Mokonyane said due to South Africa being constrained in terms of water availability there was a need to look beyond the fiscus to ensure there was financial capacity to not only provide water but also to create certainty and reliability in supply.

She said the summit was a pivotal platform for the reconstructing of the country in line with the National Development Plan (NDP), Vision 2030.

Minister Mokonyane reiterated that the call for the investment in the water sector was directed to everyone, making an example that even a person who only owns a driller was needed to become part and parcel of the invest drive by making available their tools of trade.

The fact that South Africa is water constraint, said Minister Mokonyane, made the water sector not only the business of government but of the private sector as well to ensure a sustainable economic trajectory for the country.

“By virtue of its role on the socio-economic landscape, the South African water sector is a space that has been dominated by large infrastructure projects and investments. Given the opportunities and challenges that the water sector needs to respond to, it is vital to stimulate a diverse and capable water sector business and investment landscape,” said Minister Mokonyane.

She cited the Richards Bay Desalination Plant in KwaZulu-Natal as shining example of what could be achieved when various stakeholders work together; adding that investment in the water sector was a necessary aspect of the country’s economic success.

“To close the gap in South Africa, constructive dialogue and joint collaboration with all stakeholders is the only way forward. We need to forge partnerships to achieve the impact and results we need in order to ensure South Africa’s water secure future towards climate resilience,” Minister Mokonyane said.

Minister Mokonyane said a number of initiatives were underway to understanding the gap in water infrastructure investment.



water & sanitation

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In response to a number of challenges facing the water sector, Minister Mokonyane said: "I have charged the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in partnership with the Water Research Commission (WRC) to convene the key role-players to facilitate a conversation and programme of action that aims to shift the water and sanitation sector investment landscape to a space that is open and enabling for investment and inclusive growth opportunities."

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