



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

BAT leads the pack on innovative water conservation Project

15 March 2017

The British American Tobacco South Africa (BATSA) invited Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane to a tour around their factory to showcase their water conservation that has enabled them to save half of their usual consumption over the years.

Minister Mokonyane toured the factory site on Tuesday, 14 March 2017 in Heidelberg, Gauteng.

Since its inception in 2014, the project, centred mainly on rainwater and storm water harvesting and the reverse osmosis technology, has saved BATSA about 200 million litres of water in 2016 alone. The tobacco manufacturer went from consuming 145 million litres of municipal water to 105 litres of water which has then been re-distributed to the municipality and supplied to the communities living around the Lesedi Local Municipality.

Minister who was extremely pleased with the innovation expressed her excitement saying that this is an example that the private sector is heeding the call and is fast becoming a more reliable partner in the water sector. "This should not just be a courtesy visit but should result in us sharing best practices and BAT as a private business contributing to the water sector in a positive way", Minister said as she commended the project.

The company says this initiative is not just about saving money but was established primarily for water conservation. He added that with the drought conditions, they saw a gap through which they can give back to communities.

Utilities Manager, Nokuzola Radebe highlighted the fact that during the drought and predicament of the Vaal Dam declining, BAT had to establish smart ways to save water to prevent business from slowing down. "More than anything, as manufactures, we wanted to remain reliable to our customers by coming up with a plan B for water supply that is also sustainable".

Minister was even more excited to see that the team spearheading the project is comprised of smart young people. This shows that BAT is contributing to the empowerment of young people and skills development.



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"This is the good things that must be communicated, the other side to the business that is saving lives," she said.

Maduvha Maseda