



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS will reprioritise water reticulation in rural areas – Minister Gugile Nkwinti

23 May 2018

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Gugile Nkwinti, yesterday, 22 May 2018 said he was in the department to correct rather than to condemn or punish officials.

Addressing a pre-Budget Vote Media Briefing in Parliament, Nkwinti said at a meeting held with senior managers of the Department some of them cried when he thanked them for a good and well-prepared presentation they made before the Portfolio Committee.

They cried because they have never been thanked by a Minister before. I can't destroy the young talent that is abundant in the department.

He said the Department will reprioritise its programmes in line with the R15,5 billion that is available for the current financial year. Reticulation of water to the needy will top the agenda of the department's service delivery programme.

"Our Budget Vote for 2018/19, totaling R15 571 518 000 is based on a Five Pillar Turn-Around Strategy, whose other aspects will be realised the next Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) period, i.e. 2019 – 2024. The Five Pillars are: a *National Water Resources and Services Authority, National Water Resources and Services Regulator, Water Resources and Services Value Chain, Water Resources and Services Master Plan, and Institutional Rationalisation and Organisational Alignment.*"

"To give effect to these pillars, we have streamlined the organogram of the Department as follows: Office of the Director-General (including a Chief operation Officer), Branch Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Branch Infrastructure Build and Maintenance, Branch Water and Sanitation Resources and Services Reform Regulator, Branch International Obligations and Integrated Governance, Branch Finance Management Services, as well as Corporate Support Services," the Minister said.

He said that the Department will also have to deal with the realities of budgetary constraints that were influenced by challenges emanating from previous financial years, as some historical commitments were not adequately budgeted for. In certain instances, contracts without value have been entered into, thus posing difficulty in accurate budgeting. A perfect example in this regard is the Bucket eradication Programme that led to unauthorised expenditure through overspending. This will still reflect in the finalised DWS financials for 2017/18. This can be overcome through proper project management.

Minister Nkwinti said he recently visited Giyani to familiarise himself with the water challenges there. He was happy that despite the challenges that the people of Giyani are faced with, a waste water treatment plant that recycled waste and pumped water to villages was working.

He said during his visit he met with the Giyani Local Municipality, including the Mayor, and traditional leaders. After the meeting he was satisfied that water reticulation to villages must



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take precedence over everything else. Given the minimal budget, the Department will prioritise the reticulation of water as a matter of urgency.

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