



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, MS REJOICE MABUDAFHASI, MP, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE WAR ON LEAKS PROJECT AT MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

14 November 2013

Programme Director;
Honourable Premier of North West Province: Mme Thandi Modise;
Your Worship the Executive Mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality; Cllr B. Moloji;
Your Worship the Mayor of Matlosana Local Municipality; Cllr Mike Khauoe;
MMC's present;
Councillors;
Chairperson of Rand Water Board: Advocate Petlane;
Chairperson of Midvaal Water Board: David Dikoko;
HOD's of North West Provincial Departments;
SALGA North West Provincial Executive officer: Nancy Ngwenya;
Distinguished guests;
Government officials;
Water Conservation Warriors;
Members of the community;
Members of the media;
Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

I am humbled to be amongst you today to encourage you to be water conservation ambassadors who will ensure that water is managed efficiently in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality and its Local Municipalities and the entire Province.

South Africa is amongst the 30th driest countries in the world. This means that Water Conservation is no longer the Department's responsibility but Everybody's responsibility, without water there is no Life, we cannot survive one second. There is nothing we can do without water, we drink it, we use it for food security, we do mining with it, we bath with it but somehow we always forget that it is important.

Water is key to our socio-economic development, without water we cannot achieve our government priorities such as infrastructure development, food security as we cannot produce food without water etc.

Do you know that South Africa is losing 37% of water which translates to R7 billion per year? Imagine what we can do with R7 billion...More water infrastructure can be built and the Government can also focus on other key programmes that can benefit the community. Water loss is attributed to aging infrastructure, poor household plumbing, wastage of water – using more water than the actual needed, leaving taps running etc.

We must act NOW – Lets conserve the little water we have by declaring War on Leaks and use water wisely in our households, schools, hospitals, clinics, churches, and all other government buildings in this province.

Our President gave us a directive to put measures in place to ensure that water loss is curbed by 50% in 2014. War on Leaks project is our response to the President's call.

The War on Leaks project was launched in 2010 and piloted in Mogale City Municipality. In this financial year we are implementing this project to 5 municipalities including Matlosana, from our little budget allocation we squeezed for this project for 2 years. These 5 municipalities are expected to budget for this project after 2 years to ensure continuity. Through this project we creating jobs for young people, training them on basic plumbing skills, education and awareness to be able to repair the leaks, retrofitting of water efficient devices in the identified households and educate water users about water conservation.

We have allocated 2 million rands which will create 33 jobs for young people for the duration of two years in Matlosana. We are hoping that the Municipality will absorb them or provide SMME opportunities on operations and maintenance of water infrastructure after completion of this project. .

The Premier of the North West Province, Mme Thandi Modise declared this Province a drought stricken area. The Department is committed to support the Premier in ensuring that there is water in this province, we are and will do our best with the little financial resources we have. We will share our expertise with municipalities as we are aware that most of them have technical capacity problems. The Department, office of the Premier and SALGA needs to develop a programme of action to address the water challenges in this province which should be presented to the Premier and i before end of this month. I am also mobilising private sector to come on board to support our initiatives.

I would like to also express my gratitude to:

- Midvaal Water Board for its excellent technical support to Matlosana Local Municipality as and when needed. Today Matlosana Local Municipality is amongst the top positions on the Provincial Blue Drop Status log with at score of 95,35%. As position two (2), I encourage Matlosana and Midvaal Water to advance further and make us proud.
- Rand Water and Magalies Water for the support in all our interventions
- Fiberpipe for committing resources to support this project
- Premier Mayors of Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Matlosana Municipalities for commitment to support this project
- Task team for putting together this prestigious event

In conclusion,

BAGAETSHO REMEMBER, EVERY DROP COUNTS...

- Unbilled water consumption;
- Commercial loss;
- Physical loss;
- Non Revenue Water;
- Unauthorized consumption;
- Customer meter inaccuracies;
- Leakage on transmission and distribution mains; and
- Leakage and overflows at storage tanks

SHOULD BE THINGS OF THE PAST!

Remember...

- A dripping tap (one drop per second) wastes up to 30 litres of water an hour, this means that you are wasting 10 000 litres of water per year.
- Check if you have toilet leaks; add a few drops of food dye to your cistern. If the colour seeps into the bowl, you have a leak. A leaking toilet can waste up to 30 litres of water per hour.
- Monitor your account for unusually high usage of water - your account and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

Water conservation is everyone's business. Report water leaks to the relevant authorities.

I urge everyone present here to become a water ambassador.

Water is Life, Respect it, Conserve it, Enjoy it"

I thank you.