



A DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL WATER AND SANITATION SUMMIT 2014

Preamble:

- We the delegates congregated at this National Water and Sanitation Summit on the 1st and 2nd August 2014, in the Province of Gauteng; represented by over 400 participants from all nine provinces, key stakeholder groups including civil society, academia, the private sector, all spheres of government, state-owned enterprises and agencies, labour, as well as parliamentary portfolio committees;
- Recognizing the crucial importance of water security and the integrity of the water resources;
- Recognizing that access to water and sanitation is a basic human right, are determined to address water and sanitation challenges collectively and decisively;
- Recognizing the primary challenges facing water and sanitation in South Africa, and acknowledging the need for innovative solutions that will enable us to take a great leap forward as we collaboratively develop a long-term national vision for water and sanitation;
- Convinced that we need to bring about radical socio-economic transformation in service delivery;
- Acknowledging the importance of doing things differently through communication and partnerships focusing on people-centred solutions.
- Fully conscious of the need to realize solutions in the identified deliberation areas of: meeting the service delivery challenge, enabling water and sanitation policy, developing and implementing water research, technology and innovation choices, enhancing the state of South Africa's water resources, understanding and defining the role of the private sector;

- We therefore resolve to chart a pathway toward national water security and sustainable universal access to water and sanitation services within the longer-term NDP timeframe of 2030.

Principles:

Our actions will be guided by the following principles:

Our efforts shall have the net effect of strengthening the developmental state;

Our decisions shall be informed by both the best available science, research and technology, as well as real-life, local experiences;

Our strategies shall be geared toward the development of a South African water industry that is globally competitive and locally relevant.

We therefore commit to:

1. Effectively utilizing the knowledge and information before us to its full maximum for the use of our resources in a diligent and effective manner.
2. Create an enabling environment for those who have been isolated, excluded and marginalized from education, skills development and ownership.
3. The repositioning of the function of government through a one-stop centre based in the Department of Water and Sanitation, and,
4. Develop the Water and Sanitation 10 year Plan (2015-2025) as the water and sanitation pillar of the National Development Plan. The Water and Sanitation 10 year Plan shall have the following cornerstones:
 - a. The development of an inclusive, empowering and integrated water and sanitation policy and legislative environment.
 - b. An innovative and inclusive service delivery model driven by research and technology especially with regards to alternative solutions to ensure universal coverage.
 - c. The third National Water Resources Strategy that will ensure South Africa's long term sustainable water security in the wake of climate change and our expanded development needs.
 - d. A novel public-private sector partnership that will both ensure optimum service delivery for all as well as developing a competitive South Africa Water Industry.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those that have participated in the process thus far, and invite the broader South African public to join the water family in this journey.