

**ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE
FOR WATER AND SANITATION
MR MLUNGISI JOHNSON
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES REPORT BACK SESSION
KANNALAND MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE
13 NOVEMBER 2015**

Programme Director
Executive Mayor of Kannaland
Deputy Mayor of Kannaland
Speaker and Councillors of Kannaland
The Interim Administrator of Oudtshoorn
Religious Leaders
Leaders of Community Organisations
Artists and Cultural Workers
Government Officials
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to greet all of you in the name of the Department of Water and Sanitation and all our partners in the Water and Sanitation Family.

My name is Mlungisi Johnson, I am the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation.

I am not the Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation. The Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation is Ms Pamela Tshwete.

I am sure most of you have seen Deputy Minister Tshwete in the publicity material, that is the posters and flyers.

Deputy Minister Tshwete could not be with us here today because of a family bereavement. Her mother, Mrs Nomfundo Nomzi Ruth Zondeki passed away on Saturday, 07 November 2015 and she will be laid to rest on Saturday 14 November 2015.

I would like to call upon all of you to rise and join me to observe a moment of silence in honour of our sister, mother and grandmother(uMadabane)..... **May her soul rest in peace. I thank you.**

The Portfolio Committee for Water and Sanitation is part parcel of the 20 Portfolio Committees found in Parliament.

Parliament derives its mandate from sections 104 – 124 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108, 1996.

Parliament e is one of the three arms of government (**Judiciary, Executive and the Legislature**).

The composition of Parliament is made up of two streams that is:

- (i) **Core Business Stream:** This is made up of Politicians and is about Oversight, Law Making and Public Participation.
- (ii) **Administrative Business Stream:** This is made up of Officials and this about providing Corporate, Technical and Professional Support to Core Business Stream (Parliamentary Committees and the House).

That is where I belong and Deputy Minister Tshwete come from the Executive where in each Department there is a Minister and Deputy Minister.

The Executive plans service delivery work, provides budget, executes implementation of planned actions and reports and accounts on planned actions.

Today I am here to represent the Department of Water and Sanitation to give a report on the recommendations made since the last NCOP Taking Parliament to the People in April 2015.

Secondly I would like to mobilise all Local Municipalities in the Eden District Municipality to work with the Department of Water and Sanitation to form Water and Sanitation Forums.

Thirdly I will share with you the state of water and sanitation in some municipalities in the Eden District Municipality and further appeal to the Local Municipalities to properly plan and provide correct statistical information on the needs of their communities. This information will be utilised in the budget processes, where budgets match the needs in communities.

The budget we are presenting today seeks to redress the Apartheid legacy of inequality in relation to socio-economic and political conditions the majority of our people continue to face in this country. The 1913 Native Land Act left the poor with no land rights a condition directly linked to the water rights.

Honourable Speaker the infrastructure development of the past targeted the rich and the affluent suburbs. It is through this budget that we will pave a way towards better life and bring dignity to the lives of all South Africans.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP) REPORT

In April 2015, the community of this Region assembled in Oudtshoorn as part of Taking Legislature to the People by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

In that five day session amongst the issues which were raised by the communities included the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) in Oudtshoorn and Water shortages in Kannaland Municipality.

The first Waste Water Treatment Works in Oudtshoorn had a capacity of 3.2 mega litres per day and with time it proved to be hydraulically and biologically overloaded. As a result notices of non compliant were issued to the Municipality.

The Department of Water and Sanitation had to intervene to upgrade this Waste Water Treatment Works to 9. 2 mega litres per day and this intervention has substantially improved the situation in this municipality.

In dealing with the water shortages in Kannaland the Department of Water and Sanitation engaged with the municipality and agreed on the work to be done.

The work included 12 boreholes that have been constructed which are currently operational with the capacity to supply water to the entire town of Kannaland.

Secondly I am happy to tell you that the water feasibility study has been completed. Ladismith is ready to construct a dam with a capacity of one million cubic meters at a cost of three hundred million.

LAUNCH OF THE WATER AND SANITTATION FORUMS

In her Budget Vote in 2014, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane made an undertaking to establish Water and Sanitation Forums in all Municipalities that will work with the Municipalities and the Department in planning and monitoring water and sanitation in all areas.

These structures are envisaged to facilitate public participation in the water and sanitation sector. These Water and Sanitation Forums are mandated to work side by side with the Council Portfolio Head responsible for Infrastructure and the Administrative Manager

responsible for Technical and Engineering Services.

The Forums will be a direct link between the communities and municipality. They are task to carry forward to the municipality community needs and also report back on the work done in improving water and sanitation situation in the municipality.

With the current spate of drought in the country their services are urgently needed. During this period, they will be required to teach communities on how to use water sparingly, how to conserve the limited water resource, how to fight pollution and deal with all activities that continue to threaten water conservation and water demand management.

These Forums will also be used to direct distribution of water to communities where tankering is used as a solution in the provision of water by a municipality where there is no constant water supply.

The Water and Sanitation Forum are positioned as platforms and structures to encourage discussions between the Department of Water and Sanitation and Community Stakeholders around planning of infrastructure, payment tariffs, new technologies and better service delivery.

The targeted stakeholders will amongst others include the following:

- Senior Managers from respective Municipalities
- Department of Water and Sanitation
- Water Boards and other entities
- Community representatives
- Traditional leaders
- Ward Committee representatives

- Representatives from various community structures
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Community Development Workers
- Religious Leaders

The Water and Sanitation Forums will be created by the Department of Water and Sanitation in consultation with each Municipality.

The Department will ensure that these structures are not a repetition of structures already existing in communities. Their sole mandate will only be water and sanitation related matters.

I know that a lot of work has been done by the Department as part of mobilizing communities to participating in these Forums through the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

In order to complete the good work we have done so far, we need the participation of the municipalities in order to allow access by Forum members in municipal facilities and information. The Forum members must be known by all and be recognized as legitimate structures of the Department of Water and Sanitation in facilitating public participation.

Thank you for accepting this huge responsibility to mobilize and galvanize community members into water and sanitation ambassadors.

As part of our resolve as government to improve infrastructure we have since the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP) provided more projects in the following areas:

Vanwyksdorp Reservoir Repairs	R 740 000
Ladismith Reservoir Repairs	R 2 267 000
Installation of Water Meters in Kannaland	R 1 000 000
Ladismith Water Pump Station	R 2 707 000
Zaor WWTW and Sewerage Pump Station	R 2 703 000
Bulk Water Meters in Ladismith	R 550 000

The general water and sanitation status in these areas has since improved. The total population of 24 767 in Kannaland making up 6 212 households has access to clean drinking water and only 23 percent still access water through shared community stand pipes.

In Oudtshoorn the total population of 95 933 making up 21 910 households has also access to clean drinking water and only 25 percent still access water through shared community stand pipes.

On Sanitation in Kannaland 71 percent of households have access to decent and adequate in the form of flushed toilet. In addition to these 25 percent of households have access to sanitation in the form of Sceptic Tanks, VIP Toilets and the Bucket System. The municipality and the Department of Water and Sanitation are working on the 4 percent that does not have access to basic sanitation.

The total number of households in Oudtshoorn with access to sanitation with flushed toilets is 77.2 percent. The 21.2 percent have access to other forms of sanitation such as VIP Toilets, Septic Tanks and Bucket Systems. The Department and this municipality are also working 1.6 percent that does not have access to basic sanitation.

The report we are presenting today talks to the work our government is doing to redress the Apartheid legacy of inequality in relation to socio-economic and political conditions the majority of our people continue to face in this country. The 1913 Native Land Act left the poor with no land rights a condition directly linked to the water rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen the infrastructure development of the past targeted the rich and the affluent suburbs. It is through this programme of change our government is unfolding we will pave a way towards better life and bring dignity to the lives of all South Africans.

Through the Water and Sanitation Forums, we must now see a dynamic link between the Department, the Municipality and the society out there in terms of communication, information acquisition and dissemination.

Once again thank you so much to our Civil Society Organisations who were the first to heed our call and many other partners who are here today to take this programme to another level. It is only when we work together that we can achieve more and with speed.

I thank you

