



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**PURPOSE OF THE WAR ON LEAKS SECOND NATIONAL WORKSHOP
BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WATER AND SANITATION
MS PAMELA TSHWETE
BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE, BOKSBURG
05 OCTOBER 2016**

Programme Director
Honourable Minister
Provincial Representatives
COGTA Representatives
Senior Government Officials
Rand Water Leadership
EWSETA Leadership
SALGA Leadership
Strategic Water Partnership Network
Water Boards
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity and greet you all on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Allow me to declare this second National War on Leaks workshop open and welcome all of you.

We are gathered here today to report on the work we have done to date.

Honourable Minister we are so grateful to be with you in today's session. In addressing challenges that continue to face us we hope to tap on your wealth of experience.

At this stage I would like to introduce three of our trainees present here. They are Dakalo Mashamba she is being trained as an artisan, Phindile Nhlapo who is being trained as a plumber and Nomakhosi Mashinini who is being trained as a water agent.

This workshop is a follow up to the session we held on 07 July 2016, where we were consulting and sharing information with the provinces.

In that session we reported that, the Department of Water and Sanitation is working with both Rand Water and Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA).

We also are appealed to provinces to join hands with us in ensuring that this programme becomes a success. We wanted provinces to assist the Department to monitor the implementation of this project in their locals.

During the first workshop we noted the following challenges:

- Poor communication with the key stakeholders
- Non-committal by provinces to the programme
- Difficulties in reaching to all municipalities
- Non availability of training facilities in some areas
- Demands by trainees for an increased stipend
- Lack of training facilities in some areas

Even after we have tried to address some of these challenges we continued to experience more challenges which manifests themselves in other areas.

Once again we are gathered here today to further clarify ourselves on the mandate of this project and mobilise all to support the project.

The most important thing we want to address is that this is a Presidential Project as it was announce in the 2015 State of the Nation Address.

This project is about reducing water losses and assist municipalities to save and increase their revenue collection.

The objective of this project is also to provide and replenish the technical skills most required in water demand management.

This therefore means that this workshop must assist all of us in mitigating the challenges that have become so synonymous with this project.

We want to ensure that the stakeholders gathered here today work with us during the training period and beyond.

The provincial representatives know and understand the training facilities available in their localities.

We need your support in the absorption of the qualified trainees at the end of the training programme.

We also want you, especially the Water Boards and Municipalities to fund the training of plumbers and artisans even beyond this project so that we continue to provide this essential skill.

In municipalities where we do not have a full staff compliment responsible for water services, we need to do that as a matter of extreme urgency.

The provincial representatives present here must work with us to create provincial and local coordinating structures that will work with Rand Water and EWSETA in the implementation of this project.

These structures will oversee the full implementation of the project and always be at hand to address all the challenges that may arise from time to time.

Ladies and gentlemen we are called upon to join hands with the Department, Rand Water and EWSETA in making this project a success.

The youth that is part of this project are our children, brothers, sisters and the future of this country and therefore it is important that we work with them.

It remains our responsibility to explain ourselves, the intentions of this project and end the distortions about this project that we have witnessed recently.

I thank you