



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE HANDOVER OF COMPLETED
SANITATION FACILITIES TO THE NEMATO COMMUNITY
BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WATER AND SANITATION
MRS PAMELA TSHWETE
NDLAMBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE**

07 December 2016

Programme Director
Executive Mayor and Councillors of Ndlambe
Service Providers
Community Leaders
Members of the Community
Government Officials

Molweni nonke apha eNelson Mandela Township (NEMATO)

Executive Mayor nabantu bakho bonke siyanibulisa.

Siyayazi ukuba nixakekile ngelixesha lokuphela konyaka.

Mandinibulele ngembeko enisiphe yona ngokubalapha nathi.

Ndiyayithanda lendawo yenu ngoba niyibiza ngomntu omkhulu.

Nelson Mandela was one of the heroes of the modern age. He was the icon of freedom and the epitome of forgiveness and statesmanship. He was larger than a life figure.

I must say that the Department of Water and Sanitation is very happy and pleased to begin this wonderful process to deliver proper sanitation services in this township of Nelson Mandela.

We are happy because our visit here today coincides with his passing on 05 December 2013. We are to remind ourselves about his words of inspiration and motivation to move the nation forward.

He once said “The families who live in shacks with no electricity, water and sanitation are a reminder that the past continues to haunt the present”.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is leading this initiative in keeping with the views of President Mandela and the aspirations of the National Development Plan (NDP).

Our country remains with a responsibility to eradicate and totally eliminate the most hated and degrading legacy of apartheid, the bucket toilet system found in both formal and informal areas across South Africa.

The Department of Water and Sanitation's Bucket Eradication Programme (BEP) is currently prioritizing the North West, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State provinces.

These are the provinces although endowed with minerals and rich in the agricultural land, the apartheid regime undermined their development and stalled their social transformation.

In the 2013 assessment by the Department of Water and Sanitation and the results of the 2011 census, the Ndlambe Local Municipality had a mixture of sewer flush toilets, flush toilets using septic tanks, pit toilets with ventilation, pit toilets without ventilation and this most unwanted bucket toilets.

The Department of Water and Sanitation undertook a verification process of bucket toilets in formalised areas in June 2015 and confirmed some fifty two thousand two hundred and forty nine (52 249) buckets in the four provinces.

A total of twenty five thousand and ninety one (25 091) buckets have been eradicated to date and a total of twenty seven thousand one hundred and forty seven (27 147) buckets remain to be completed.

To date, three thousand two hundred and eighty two (3282) structures were completed and handed over in Eastern Cape, two hundred and twenty three (223) in North West, Seven thousand six hundred and eighteen (7618) in Northern Cape and thirteen thousand eight hundred and eighty (13 880) in Free State.

The Department will conclude its work before we close for the festive seasons.

The scope of work relates largely to provision of sewer reticulation and the provision of new toilet structures to households.

The database of suppliers who are registered with the Department for the delivery of sanitation works range at different levels.

As the Department it is our interest and we are happy that we have been able to use all suppliers in our database for contracting and sub-contracting in community service projects.

We wish to encourage all big service providers to follow this example by involving smaller service providers. In this manner, a large number of small and medium enterprises have benefitted from the Bucket Eradication Programme (BEP).

There have been outstanding challenges for the Bucket Eradication Programme (BEP) which remain in the system and include the following:

- **Soil conditions**
- **Outstanding town planning processes**
- **Areas without the necessary supporting bulk infrastructure**
- **Water shortages in some areas**
- **Inability to fund these projects by municipalities**
- **Misalignment of planning between the Department and Water Service Authorities**
- **Project sustainability after completion through maintenance**

In a bid to regulate sanitation, the Department has gazetted the review of the Sanitation Policy and this will see regulated sanitation services on amongst other things the provision of sanitation on privately owned land, for backyard dwellers as well as for informal settlements. Emergency sanitation and sanitation for future settlements is also included.

Today the Department is here to hand over one thousand three hundred and ninety (1390) waterborne sanitation system to this township (Nemato) in the Ndlambe Local Municipality, Eastern Cape in honouring our father and the first democratic President of South Africa.

The project was allocated **forty six million two hundred and sixty two thousand nine hundred and eleven rand fourteen cents** (R 46 263 911.14) within the 15/16 financial year.

The following opportunities were created:

- **Construction of reticulation and new toilets**
- **Plumbing in the facilities**
- **Provision of materials for construction**
- **Labour services**

The municipality and local councillors played a pivotal role in recruiting and placing community members who were eligible for employment within the project area.

The Community Liaison Officers were assigned with mending the labour desk and as a result the project went very well and ultimately ensuring that the community benefit.

During the project cycle of six months about 130 people found temporary employment especially at the peak of the project and got on the job training on erecting top structures and related work.

Ndlambe Local Municipality insisted that local Small Medium Micro Enterprises are utilised, material is sourced locally, local labour be utilised and as a result two main sub-contractors were appointed.

To ensure that the community aspirations are attended to, four Community Liaison Officers were appointed,(two females and two males).

In addition to that a total of nine Small Medium Micro Enterprises benefited from the project within the project cycle with different specialities ranging from construction, plumbing, and transport.

These facilities in order for them to last longer and serve best their purpose must just be used for their purpose.

Toilet facilities cannot be used as some other household waste dumping sites. Toilets must always be kept clean for hygienic purposes and the spread of communicable diseases.

Making your toilet a dump site will have undesired consequences which include sewer blockages due to the disposal of foreign objects not suitable for pipelines such as baby nappies, cardboard and plastic bags and in turn make it difficult to maintain.

The Councillors in the municipality through Ward Committee meetings must from time to time monitor the project and ensure that the reticulation network functions properly and waste water is properly directed to the functional waste water treatment works.

We must also ensure that we minimise water wastages by detecting water leaks in line with our War on Leaks programme.

To assist water conservation, the Department has installed a six litre toilet cistern as oppose to a conventional nine litre cistern found in most of the older houses and settlements to save potable water for household consumption instead.

The Department has now dealt with this legacy that lingered for decades in our houses and provided comfort, safety and privacy with the building of the new toilets. Indeed, Sanitation is now dignity!

In conclusion I wish to thank you all once again for honouring our invitation to this gathering.

Secondly I would also like to wish all of you a merry festive season and a prosperous new year.

May 2017 bring happiness and enjoy to all your homes and shower you with abundant blessing.

I thank you. Ndiyabulela. Baie dankie.