

BUDGET AND POLICY STATEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION, VOTE 36

By Mr. David Mahlobo MP,

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation

NCOP, Cape Town

25 July 2019

Hon. Amos Maseko, Chairperson of National Council of Provinces

Hon. Sylvia Lucas, Deputy Chairperson of National Council of Provinces,

Hon. LN Sisulu, Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

Hon. P Tshwete, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements

Hon. China Dlodlo, Chairperson of Select Committee on Cooperative
Governance and Traditional Affairs and Members

Honourable Members of National Council of Provinces

Act. DGs and Senior Management of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

Leadership of our Entities- Chairperson, Members of the Boards, CEOs and
Senior Executives

Leadership of various stakeholders in our sector and civil society Esteemed
Guests

Fellow

South

African

INTRODUCTION

1. In the next few days South Africa shall commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the Historic Women's March held on the 09th August 1956. The 20 000 brave women who marched on to the Union Buildings protesting against the apartheid pass laws being extended to black women. Some of the words taken from the petition remain true even today: *"We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental rights of freedom, justice and security."*
2. We will always salute oMama Charlotte Maxeke, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, Ruth Mopati, Fatima Meer, Ruth First, Rahima Moosa, Sophie De Bruin, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, Portia Shabangu, Nokuthula Simelane, Edna Molewa and many of unsung heroines of our struggle for freedom, justice and equality
3. A lot of progress has been achieved in the last twenty-five years in changing the lives of our people for the better but we are the first to admit that more still needs to be done.
4. Inspired by the call by HE President Cyril Ramaphosa of an advent of a New Dawn - a period of unity, renewal and rejuvenation, we are hard at work to grow South Africa together.

WATER SECURITY

5. The importance of water is best captured by Mehmet Murat ildan: *"For every drop of water you waste, you must know that somewhere on earth someone is desperately looking for a drop of water!"*
6. Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.

7. Water is the one substance from which the earth can conceal nothing, it sucks out its innermost secrets and brings them to our very lips.
8. We live in a country where water is scarce, that only 30 or so other countries have less water per person than we do.
9. We want water security to ensure that people will always have enough water to meet their basic needs, that industry can invest knowing that there is a reliable supply. While we cannot guarantee rain for our farmers, we must ensure that their irrigation supplies are predictable and well managed.

How are we going to achieve our water security?

10. In well-off urban communities, water services are generally of a high standard. In many poor communities, however, taps have run dry, unsafe water and unsanitary toilets (or no toilets at all) are part of people's daily lives.
11. According to Statistics South Africa, the General Household Survey 2018 found out that the percentage of household with access to tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site increased by 4.6% between 2002 and 2018. While 89% households (HH) had access to tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site in 20018. The report state that v46.3% of HH accessed water in their dwellings while a further 28.5% of households accessed pipe water in their yards. An estimated 2.7% of HH still had to fetch water stagnant dams and pools, river or streams, or wells compared to 4.3% in 2002.
12. An inverse relationship seems to exist between perceived quality of services and the number of interruptions.
13. Water crises may arise if the right investments, innovations and management decisions are not made at the right time. This could see jobs and livelihoods being affected, taps running dry and diseases spreading unnecessarily.

14. With a growing population and economy, demands for water will continue to grow. Some of the new demands will be met by building new infrastructure.
15. We must start from the planning of our supplies and then in the development and management of the water resource infrastructure for which South Africa is well respected throughout the world. We must also protect the scarce resource from pollution and over-use, which can damage the environment on which we depend.
16. Our world-class water resource planning has been neglected over the past few years as we concentrated on providing basic water supply to our people. We will re-invigorate our long range planning capabilities. To do this, we will build on the technical skills still available within the sector.
17. The 4th industrial revolution is already part of the water business. Our planning already uses complex hydrological models, which can predict whether our systems will have enough water two, three and as far as six years into the future.

WATER SECTOR REGULATION AND TRANSFORMATION USING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

18. The information technological revolution can do much more for water management. We have to monitor water use and water pollution more intensively. But there is a limit to what can be achieved by inspectors on the ground. We must be innovative.
19. The Department has already used satellite images to plot agricultural water use, for licensing purposes. We can do much more with this technology to monitor and manage water quality in our rivers, wetlands and dams.
20. **Big data and analytics** are going to become increasingly critical to

managing water security, water quality, and services to our communities.

21. The integration of **earth observation into the satellite remote sensing** for monitoring eutrophication in South Africa's dams and reservoirs.
22. **Using climate forecasts** obtained from the national forecasting centers, to predict drought index for different planting dates.
23. **New Sanitation:** These are new innovative sanitation solutions that are characterized by:
 - i. Low or no water flushing,
 - ii. Waste is locally treated and is therefore non-sewered,
 - iii. Waste is beneficiated to recover water, produce energy through bio-char or biogas or even liquid biofuel or fertilizer or protein recovery as well as others.

WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT

24. We must use our water carefully and wisely at home, and in our workplaces. We must respect and take care of our public infrastructure and we must make sure that others do the same.
25. South Africa will implement water conservation and demand reduction measures: This can be achieved through a combination of:
 - i. **Operations and Maintenance** - Infrastructure repairs (to address non-revenue water), new building codes, incentives to install water-efficient appliances and a tiered water-pricing structure.
 - ii. **Education and Awareness** campaigns to raise awareness about high levels of per capita water use and the inherent value of water conservation in a water-scarce country.
 - iii. **Increase the amount of water that is reused notably**

from acid mine drainage and wastewater -

iv. Increase groundwater extraction -

v. Explore new technologies -

vi. Desalination

Ministerial Response on Pollution of our water resources

26. South Africa is currently overexploiting its renewable water resources. Moreover, withdrawals are forecast to increase in all three sectors (agricultural, industrial and municipal). Meanwhile, much of the country's water infrastructure is in disrepair and dam levels in some parts of our country are dangerously low.

27. When water resources are overexploited for a prolonged period of time, this interaction between human activity and deteriorating water quality is amplified. There are more pollutants being added to less water, making it increasingly difficult for the water system to efficiently dilute those particulates and regenerate itself.

28. When the ability of a river to effectively absorb potentially harmful particulates is diminished, there are substantial consequences for human development including an increased risk of contracting a waterborne disease

29. The real South African Water Crisis is that of Water Quality. The Minister has directed us to deploy water inspectors with effect from the 1st August 2019 to monitor our water resources. During my inspection of Mthatha Dam on the 22 July 2019 due to a company dumping pollutants into the water course, I am pleased to indicate that action is being taken and the polluter will be brought to book.

30. We have constituted an Anti-pollution task team that will conduct a nationwide assessment of the status of water quality. The architecture of an accessible real-time information system to monitor water quality, including the re-launch of the Green and Blue Drop reports. The development of a 5-

year National Water Quality Strategy using the best scientific knowledge, innovation and capacity building mechanisms as well a revisit of the governance arrangements for water quality will follow.

31. This team will advise on effective and efficient authorization of water and waste discharge as provided for in our legislation whilst taking into account the polluter pays principle.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

32. Over the past few years our infrastructure planning and implementation has experienced poor planning, inadequate budgeting, delays in execution, poor maintenance of infrastructure, corruption in procurement, and lack of technical engineering capacity. We will improve our capacity including recruitment of young professionals within the sector.

33. An implementation model of Khawuleza has been adopted to speed up infrastructure planning and delivery. We are harnessing our capacity in TCTA, Water Boards and DWS Construction Unit to implement certain infrastructure projects with a clear focus to create jobs and promote SMMEs, with 30% of procurement spend targeting women and youth owned enterprises.

34. We will work closely with MISA and COGTA on all the Municipal Water Grants related projects. In our infrastructure designs we shall ensure fit for purpose whilst ensuring maximum use of locally produced components and equipment. Water Infrastructure grants cannot and should not be diverted!

CONCLUSION

35. HE President Xi Jing pin, People Republic of China words remain relevant for our epoch when he said: *“Happiness does not fall out of the blue and dreams will not come true by themselves. We need to be down-to-earth and*

work hard. We should uphold the idea that working hard is the most honorable, noblest, greatest and most beautiful virtue”.

36. We remain on course in building a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperity society as envisioned in the Freedom Charter- our lodestar, the Constitution and the National Development Plan vision 2030.

37. HE President Ramaphosa has been given the task and responsibility to rally and lead the ANC and the South African nation in its diversity, take up this historic baton and continue working hard for the unity, rejuvenation and great renewal of the country, so that we will stand rock firm in the family of nations and make fresh and greater contribution to humanity.

38. The community of Entokozweni in Eastern Cape, Mahikeng in North West, Dr. JS Moroka in Mpumalanga, Giyane, Sekhukhune in Limpopo, UMkhanyakude in KZN, Emfuleni in Gauteng and other areas we have heard about your plight- working together with COGTA and Provinces we shall find solutions.

39. We are building a water secure South Africa, in which every South African will have the opportunity to play their part.

40. Let's Grow South Africa, Together!

41. God Bless South Africa, her sons and daughters!