



MINISTRY
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REMARKS BY LN SISULU, MP, MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION, MS LN SISULU, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF WATER TANKS BY THE EMBASSY OF DENMARK AND INSPECTION OF THE TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL AREAS, AT THE MAMELODI HOSTEL, CITY OF TSHWANE.

14 MAY 2020

HE Ambassador Tobias Elling Rehfeld
Deputy Head of the Danish Mission, Ms Karina Hedemark
Administrator for the City of Tshwane, Mr Mpho Nawa
South African Human Rights Commissioner, Adv. Mohamed Ameerma
Officials of both Departments of Human Settlements, and Water and Sanitation
Members of the media
Ladies and gentlemen
Good afternoon.

We are gathered here today because the continued good relations that date back many decades are bearing tangible fruits which can be enjoyed by the most vulnerable sectors of South Africa's populace.

Denmark is one country that was steadfast in the support of the ideals of a free South Africa even when that was not fashionable.

Even post the advent of our fledgling democracy, Denmark has continued to be supportive.

The two countries are jointly implementing and bringing to fruition the Second Phase of the very successful RSA-Danish Collaboration, namely the South Africa-Denmark Cooperation in the Fields of Water Sector, Water Use, and Water Resources.

As water is central to all socio-economic development, this Collaboration will go a long way to ensuring South Africa's water security.

Denmark is also a Key strategic Partner and very active with regards to Foreign Direct Investment towards South Africa.

This can be seen today through the important donation of the water tanks by MAERSK.

Excellency, as a developing country we are unashamedly taking advantage of our long-standing relationship and the signed Collaboration to benefit from capacity building efforts in the field of water and sanitation under the following work-streams:

- **Urban Water**
- **Water efficiency in industries**
- **Groundwater management**
- **Financial Modelling**
- **Research and Innovations.**

I am glad to acknowledge that this Collaboration includes work that we do collectively with our sister department of Science and Technology, as well as other well-respected institutions like the Water research Commission.

The Danish colleagues play a large part within the Strategic Water Partnerships Network, more particularly within Water Stewardship, ensuring the most innovative leadership is shared within the Partnership.

Furthermore, DWS officials have attended capacity building programmes aimed at strengthening the implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan and Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).

I must indicate that I do appreciate the assistance and involvement of the Danish people with the implementation of the Master Plan

Your Excellency, I cannot end my input without impressing upon all of us that even as this Collaboration evolves and unfolds, there is a need for more industry partnership in the total areas of my responsibility which are both Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation.

We could have not chosen a better place to receive these donations. We are in Mamelodi hostel and this is one of the biggest hostels in our country with a population of over 8000 residents.

It is evident to all of us what our people are going through as they try to comply with COVID-19 regulations, particularly social-distancing. The settlement we are in today is congested. It is for this reason that we have decided to intervene with the construction of 1000 Temporary Residential Units (TRUs) in our effort to ease congestion while improving the living conditions of our people. This is one of the many projects we have and are working on during this time.

We have directed all our Provinces to allocate the already finished houses to the rightful and qualifying beneficiaries. This will assist a great deal in freeing space in our informal settlements.

We will continue to do our level best, with the limited resources at our disposal to accede to the needs of our people.

We call upon the private sector to partner with us as we continue to restore the dignity of our people through human settlements, water and sanitation.

In conclusion, I appreciate your presence and that of all the attendees as we are gathered here today. This is to further demonstrate that as a government, we are responsible for and to all South Africans.

I thank you.