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SISULU

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COMMENT



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WE NEED LEADERS LIKE MINISTER SISULU

WHILE there is a need to build a capable state to improve service delivery and to end the practice of trampling on the fundamental rights of the people, there is an equally important need for leadership that is sensitive to and responds decisively to the lived reality of all South Africans.

The recent recognition of Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu as one of the prominent leaders in the water sector worldwide lends credence to her virtues as a servant leader that our infant democracy so desperately needs.

Faced with a myriad of developmental challenges, South Africa cries out for an unwavering commitment on the part of leaders to work judiciously to better the lives of the most vulnerable. It calls for a leadership that would not flinch at the burden of issues placed on its shoulders.

Thus, Minister Sisulu is a perfect fit for the water sector, taking into account its myriad and dynamic challenges that are as big as the electricity crisis, if not the biggest in the country.

The water sector does not only need an energetic leader, but requires a person of sound and strategic thinking.

As soon as Minister Sisulu was appointed to this demanding portfolio of water and sanitation, she was traversing the length and breadth of the country to put out the fires of communities' discontent.

Inspired by the ideal of water as life and sanitation as dignity, Minister Sisulu is advancing toward a future South Africa that all South Africans, especially the poor, want this country to become.

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Minister Sisulu is
advancing a future that
all citizens want

One of Minister Sisulu's achievements since being at the helm of the department has been the suspension of the legal action by Save the Vaal Environment (SAVE) against the government. This alone is a profound statement which will enable the department to clean the polluted Vaal River.

Minister Sisulu went to the Vaal River to personally assess the damage caused by failing sewerage infrastructure at Emfuleni Local Municipality. The sewage had entered the Vaal River System for more than 10 years, prompting SAVE to approach the courts to force the government to clean up the system.

Alive to the reality that millions do not have access to safe water and decent sanitation, Minister Sisulu is working in concert with various stakeholders to bring the country back on track to achieve sustainable water security. Thus, the recognition of Minister Sisulu as one of the prominent leaders in the water sector worldwide, recognises the type of leadership that meets the standards expected of a government leader.

Accordingly, this recognition is a key milestone in Minister Sisulu's journey to make the Department of Water and Sanitation service-delivery focused and reflecting government values of care and responsiveness.

It is in light of this that we celebrate Minister Sisulu's recognition and hope that she continues to strive to level the playing field when it comes to accessing water and sanitation services. In this way, she will bring legitimacy and credibility not only to her department, but to the government as a whole.

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