



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Join to become an active water agent

28 August 2015

##### **Port Elizabeth:**

*It is all system goes for the much-anticipated launched of the now Presidential Special Project, War On Leaks (WoL) in Port Elizabeth (PE) by State President Jacob Zuma today, Friday, 28 August 2015.*

*The good news is that the mood and an air of expectancy reigns supreme across the entire Eastern Cape Province region including surroundings areas as people talk about the prospects of skills empowerment and lasting job creation opportunities that are not only going to empower local communities, but will also put the region steadfast towards speedy economic freedom and growth.”*

*There were several pre-launch events that took place on Thursday, 27 August 2015 in support of this occasion. PE hot artist Sdudla was at his effervescent best when he entertained people around the vicinity.*

*Today’s launch serves as a powerful campaign mechanism re-iterating the value of water, the need for sustainable management of this scarce resource and the role water plays in eradicating poverty and under-development in South Africa.*

*The process takes place under the cloud of countrywide service delivery protests whereby communities are exercising their democratic right to demand their constitutional rights among them, the right to a safe, sustainable supply of potable water. It has never been more pertinent to raise awareness to communities that like every right access to water is coupled with a responsibility to protect and utilise this scare resource sparingly.*

*When the President launch this project today, the whole world, especially South Africans, will be watching with bated breath to hold thumps that it does not only proposer, but should yield*



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*good dividends to help the State tackle these problems, among others, of unemployment and poverty.*

*From the black townships of Port Elizabeth such as Zwijve stretching further South towards Khayalitsha in Cape Town in the Western Cape Province, the talk is about the WoL*

*Several people, especially women and the youth are raving mad about the project. The big question is what are they waiting for. Join the queue to support the campaign to save the resource. Ms Poppy Ngezemane, a local Port Elizabeth University Student, is over the hills. She said the process will go a long way in stabilizing the region. "More jobs coupled with economic empowerment and development of the region is set to explode to greater proportions of prosperity and wealth.*

*A jovial Sankie Mvelose, a local street trader, said he was happy that more job opportunities would be unlocked by this process.*

*"God has answered our prayers and we are a happy lot," he added.*

*Granny Innocentia Mkomane is happy that "My grand children and other people are, or say, have good prospects of finding lasting employment.*

*This launch will also boost government's youth employment projects as thousands of young people will not only be trained to garner skills such as plumbing, but will also be employed full-time in various municipalities around the country where they will be stationed to deal with any leaks problems head on.*

*The youth who will receive skills training will attend a six-month course, offered by institutions such as the Rand Water at Rand Water Academy. They will also get training on health and safety, machine operation and moving vessels, among others. "They will become water warriors and assist to eradicate water leaks. The training will arm them with a skills development opportunity, which will lead to job creation.*

*Rand Water also pledged its support for the campaign, stressing the need to invest in infrastructure. This process calls for government to continue to encourage every sector of society to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that the nation has faced over the past 20 years including the current challenges that include the water provision backlog.*



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*The overall objective is to create a culture of water conservation within all water management and water services institutions.*

- *Educate and create awareness on water conservation objectives and principles for all officials and employees working in water institutions.*
- *Ensure that water institutions demonstrate efficient water usage and are not directly responsible for the inefficient use and wastage of water.*
- *Promote and ensure the regional co-operation and co-ordination amongst water institutions.*
- *Ensure the implementation of water conservation principles by all public sector and parastatal institutions.*
- *Develop water efficiency rating for water institutions.*

*The scarcity and quality of water have emerged as trigger points around this precious life-giving liquid. South Africa is a dry country with limited water resources; water wastage by South Africans particularly in big cities, needs to be curbed. Some consumers have not yet come to realize that we are a water stressed country despite rationing of water in the past in some cities. Behaviour change is therefore necessary in cognizance of the challenge at hand. Some parts of three provinces are gripped by drought, namely: Limpopo, north West and Northern Cape.*

*Lastly, economic growth in South Africa is essential to its development, and industry is expected to be the biggest contributor to its economic growth. Future industrial water use is very significant for water resource planning purposes.*

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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