



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION, MS LINDIWE
LUSENGA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF HYDRONET**

MPUMALANGA

4 MAY 2022

The Director-General of the Department, Dr Sean Phillips

His Excellency, Ambassador of the Netherlands Mr Han Peters

Dutch representatives

The CEO of Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency, Mr Lucky
Charles Mohalaba

The CEO of South Africa Weather Services (SAWS), Mr Ishaam Abader
Provincial Head of DWS in Mpumalanga, Mr Fikile Guma

Representatives from all Provincial Offices

Senior Government Officials,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

I wish to welcome and thank everyone for honouring the invitation to attend this launch of HydroNET. This event would not be a success without partners both national and international that aim to ensure protected, sustainable, and resilient water resources.

Water is a precious resource that supports all socio-economic development and needs to be treated as such.

The South African Constitutional obligations require the Department to be positively responsive in providing water as a basic human right to all.

One of the most important responsibilities for the Ministry and Department is that of authority over water resource management. This responsibility cuts across government but needs input of the private sector and other interested parties, including non-profit organisations.

The launch is meant to ensure technology will allow water managers to use reliable data to improve the quality of the water resources. The launch will also include the following:

- To show case real-time decision-making tools of the HydroNET system using the Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency and the Pongola Usuthu CMA as case studies.
- Interactions between the water managers from various regions including catchment management agencies, water user associations, irrigation boards, SALGA, SAFWUA, mining, industries, and agricultural sectors with the team from SAWS, HydroNET and HydroLOGIC to engage on the system configuration.

In closing, I would like to thank our Dutch counterparts together with SAWS for the support in implementing the HydroNET system. To all the participants of the launch your interaction and commitment is highly appreciated. I strongly believe that through today's interaction we will be encouraged to implement our innovative ideas to manage water resources better.

Water is life and sanitation is dignity.

Thank you.