



WATER FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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NAFU'S RESPONSE

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President – NAFU SA

- Programme Director, Ms Pam Yako – Director General, Dept of Water and Forestry, Ms Mochotli, Chief Director – Water and forestry, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- Thank you for inviting us to participate in this important workshop.
- Water is an important resource, invoking competition among all species. Wars have been fought over this resource, people displaced . As in other aspects of life In South Africa, access was defined along racial lines with blacks pushed to the margins.



- The framework on Water and Development seeks to ensure have noble ideals:
 - Ensuring that there is sufficient water to support growth
 - Ensuring access to portable water by all South Africans.
 - Ensuring sustainability
- The high level recommendations are instructive and points to the required actions.
- However my input today will focus on the challenges faced by the sector, particularly the constituency I represent



Challenges

- **Equity**

- Like many aspects of our lives, particularly in the agricultural sector, we are still very far from achieving equity on the use of water. I hope that the much awaited water reform strategy will be made operational very soon as it promises to address this problem.

- **Awareness**

- There is a general lack of awareness particularly among black farmers of the developments around the subject of water. This lack of awareness and research capacity to support their argument, seem to make people intimidated by the processes that have culminated into this framework and other policy documents.



- **Water rights**

- This is a very contentious issue. Water rights are not linked to land rights. It is therefore possible, as it happened in the past that land is sold separately from the water rights.
- Unsuspecting buyers, particularly land reform beneficiaries, fall in the trap and invest in a farm without water– (not part of land rights)
- Either more information or not be separated

- **No affirmed black rights.**

- In the former homeland areas, the existing irrigation schemes do not have affirmed water rights. In Limpopo alone, there are 126 irrigation schemes making up 48 000 ha operating without licences
- The water Boards are dominated industry & mines. There is a limited and weak participation by black people. This undermines all efforts towards transformation.

Challenges (Cont)

- Quality of Water

- The challenge that the agricultural sector face is the increasingly declining quality of water mainly due to lack of maintenance, and industrial and mining pollutants.
- This impact on the quality of food – posing a very high health risk and impacting negatively on export markets

challenges



- Implementation of the water allocation strategy
- Creation of awareness & more information
- Stricter regulations for polluting industries
- Affirming rights in the former homelands areas.

Measures to address Challenges



- THANK YOU

