



INTERNET ARTICLE

South Africa and Cuba sign an agreement on water

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The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu signed a bilateral agreement on water with the Cuban Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Rodolfo Banitez Verson on Thursday, 06 February 2020 at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand.

Minister Sisulu was accompanied by her Deputy, Mr David Mahlobo and Acting Director-General, Mr Mbulelo Tshangana and other senior officials of the Department.

The agreement will see the deployment of 26 engineers from Cuba to South Africa to assist in the field of Water resource management and supply. The engineers will start working in South Africa between April and May. The specialists from Cuba will be working on a three years renewable contract with an additional two more years and they will be placed under Water Resource Planning, Operations and Maintenance, Regional Bulk Infrastructure programme, Strategic Asset Management and Provincial Offices.

After the signing ceremony, Minister Sisulu said "Our infrastructure is decaying and seemingly old and we are hoping that you will be able to assist us in this regard". We are looking forward to welcoming the engineers who will arrive in April and May 2020, we eagerly anticipate their arrival".

His Excellency Rodolfo Banitez indicated that he shares the same sentiment with the President of South Africa when he said; relations between South Africa and Cuba on cooperation in the fields of water resources management and supply are a new demonstration of our special bilateral bonds and deep friendship.

Rodolfo further stressed that water is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

The collaboration between the two states will capacitate young and upcoming engineers and artisans in the water sector, and Cuban engineers are expected to impart knowledge on maintenance, operation and water sector infrastructure.

Some of the engineers and specialists expected to arrive in the country will be based at rural areas and other disadvantaged communities.

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