



INTERNET ARTICLE

Investment in Water and Sanitation vital for the country's economy, says Deputy Minister Mahlobo

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Department of Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister David Mahlobo has acknowledged that although government has made some significant strides in the sector over the years, more still needs to be done.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo was speaking during the Department's Budget Vote alongside Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on Tuesday, 25 May 2021.

"We acknowledge that there are areas where water and sanitation challenges are being experienced, especially in rural areas where services and infrastructure are poor or non-existent, whilst urban areas continue to experience service delivery disruptions or failures for a variety of reasons," Mahlobo admitted.

He said investments into water infrastructure and water management will be to the benefit of the country and would also assist in the eradication of poverty.

"The economic benefits far outweigh the investment costs, wherein, decision makers often view such investments as mere costs," he said.

"There is a considerable need for public and private sector investment in the water sector," he added.

Mahlobo said South Africa's challenge in the delivery of water and sanitation services is caused by various factors, including but not limited to insufficient water infrastructure maintenance and investment, drought, and lack of skilled engineers.

He says to tackle these issues; various stakeholders have put their heads together and will be investing in skills and water technology.

"The Water Research Commission (WRC), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Institutions of Higher Learning, SALGA and Water SETA, private sector, and international partners are investing in skills revolution and technologies required for the current epoch and future demands," he announced.





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Mahlobo concluded by calling on collaborations to accelerate projects aimed at achieving sustainable development goals on water and sanitation.

“Let’s provide families with hope, health and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, unemployment and reduce inequality,” he concluded.

Sinethemba Madolo



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