



INTERNET ARTICLE

Water is a right not a privilege - Minister Mchunu

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Minister Senzo Mchunu implored the Department of Water and Sanitation and water sector partners to work tirelessly and double their efforts to ensure that everyone has access to water in the country.

He issued this plead during his visit to Eastern Cape where he met with the Provincial and Local Government representatives and Amatola Water Board to assess water and sanitation challenges in the province recently.

Minister Mchunu, accompanied by his Deputy Ministers, David Mahlolo and Dikeledi Magadzi held a series of engagements with officials from the Department.

The aim of the engagements was to assess and find solutions to the water crisis afflicting the province. Topping the agenda, issues of governance, fastening of water projects, source of water to supply the province and mismanagement of certain entities were among the issues emanating from Minister's engagements with different stakeholders.

"Water delivery is a right and it can't be delayed. This Department must ensure that this right is fully met. It's not a privilege and it's not a favour that you are doing the people of South Africa. It's a right," Minister Mchunu told Eastern Cape management.

He drove home the point that water is a constitutional and every person working within the department needs to ensure that the right is fully met.

He added their political mandate is to fulfil to the people's expectations of clean water.

"When you see children having a problem of water you must know that we have a serious problem, and we are not meeting our constitutional mandate. It is our political mandate fulfilling expectations or responding to expectations", he said.

Minister Mchunu says the number of years an official has been with the department counts for nothing if change isn't visible.

"The years of service of an official do not necessarily mean much if they haven't made a difference in their space. You cannot boast about working at DWS whilst the people of South Africa are still without water and sanitation"

Mchunu concluded by urging officials to always be conscious and to go over and above what is asked.

Sinethemba Madolo

