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Minister Mchunu calls on officials to amplify the delivery of water and sanitation services

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Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu has sternly called on officials of the Department to enhance the quality of their work in order to amplify the delivery of water and sanitation services to communities across the country, especially in Limpopo.

Minister Mchunu was speaking during day one of his three-day visit (07 - 09 September) in Limpopo where he is set to assess the state of water and sanitation in the province.

“For the past two weeks, I have met with the provincial governments of the Free State and Eastern Cape. Now I am in Limpopo and what I do not want to see happening is people’s lives staying the same after we have left. Work has to be done,” he said.

Minister Mchunu also expressed his dislike for clumsy workmanship on projects being implemented and said it was time that the Department fully fulfilled its mandate to the people.

“It is time for us to hold each other accountable at all spheres of government. People need to account, even if this means provincial government saying to national: “get you act together.” Lack of accountability affects the poorest of the poor and this cannot continue,” he said.

Detailing the state of water and sanitation infrastructure, the Limpopo DWS Provincial Head Lucy Kobe admitted that while there are some successful projects implemented in the province, much work still has to be done.

“Minister I admit that as a department we could have handled the implementation of the Giyani Bulk Water project differently. I can assure you that we have seen our mistakes and we are working to do better,” said Kobe.

Minister Mchunu’s visit will entail discussions on matters of governance, implementation, service delivery and finance towards the provision of water and sanitation.

The Lepelle Northern Water and Magalies Water Boards are also expected to provide comprehensive presentations on challenges they encounter in delivering water projects in their areas of operation and convene solutions.

Lebogang Maseko

