



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Sisulu calls on Engineers to contribute to the developmental agenda of our country**

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Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu has called on engineers to patriotically contribute to the development agenda of the country.

Minister Sisulu made this call while delivering a keynote address at a breakfast hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) in Midrand on Friday 18 June 2021.

Sisulu addressed members of the NSBE on the role of local engineers in the execution of the National Water & Sanitation Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a "call to action" which seeks to rally South Africans to work together to address the challenges confronting water and Sanitation sector.

Minister Sisulu noted 3 challenges, namely:

- The Economy
- The Inherited Water and Sanitation backlog
- Transformation in Engineering

"Today's global challenges such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic require engineering minds that would offer ground-breaking solutions aimed at accelerating economic recovery," said Minister Sisulu.

Minister Sisulu added that the country needs engineers that would take a lead in realising "our vision of new human settlements that provide housing and comfort to our people and to help change the spatial orientation of apartheid cities and towns".

Addressing the issue of shoddy workmanship, Sisulu implored members of the NSBE to shy away from corruption, not sign off poorly constructed infrastructure projects and not bow to pressure to compromise technically-sound decisions.

"We need a cadre of engineers that will help us in water resource management, address the increasing threat of drought, build dams and wastewater treatment plants, and to also find lasting solutions to water leaks," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the engineers, president of the NSBE, Mdu Mlaba said they had noted with interest the drive by the Department of Human Settlements to procure some of the properties from the State-Owned Entities such as Eskom and Transnet. Mlaba said their engineers and project managers were ready to partner with government to convert these buildings into decent and affordable social housing units for people living in the cities.

He also conveyed his organization's commitment to work with government as it embarked on finding lasting solutions to water and sanitation challenges.

**KHULEKANI NGCOBO**