



## **INTERNET ARTICLE**

### **Deputy Minister Magadzi calls for the implementation of the Water and Sanitation Master Plan**

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Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi has emphasized the need to implement the provincial Water and Sanitation Master Plan in KwaZulu-Natal amid the ongoing water challenges in parts of the province. She was speaking during a work session in Ladysmith where executive mayors from the province's Midlands Municipalities met with her alongside Minister Senzo Mchunu recently.

While outlining the purpose of the meeting, Minister Mchunu did not mince his words when addressing the significance of local government to enhance and improve the delivery of water and sanitation services to communities.

"When we took to office, we make a deliberate decision to meet with all spheres of government in order to get an idea of what is working, what is broken and what needs to be fixed to improve our work in the sector," Minister Mchunu said.

"Having met with most of the accounting officers in the different spheres of government, we felt it was important to meet with this critical sphere, local government. And I can tell you for free, this is not a talk shop, this is a platform where we should map out a plan which will bring relief to the communities we serve," he added.

During the session, Deputy Minister Magadzi strongly impressed upon the delegates the need for the implementation of the provincial Water and Sanitation Master Plan which has been endorsed by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

"What I am hearing in detail is your problem areas, but what I am not seeing is what you plan to do about, with whom and how. KwaZulu-Natal has a good Master Plan, which, in most aspects, goes hand-in-hand with the Plan drafted by national government and this should be used as a guide for reliable and sustainable water supply in the province," said Deputy Minister Magadzi.

The District Municipalities which were part of the meeting included the uMzinyathi, uThukela, and Amajuba District Municipalities.

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## water & sanitation

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The municipalities made comprehensive presentations focusing on access of water and adequate sanitation to households, plans to complete long-term water projects, measures taken to address revenue collections and non-revenue water as well as the operation and maintenance of infrastructure, among others.

Both Minister Mchunu and Deputy Minister Magadzi emphasized the need for improved water availability, reliable supply and sustainability in the provision of water.

**Lebogang Maseko**

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