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Minister Mchunu host Singaporean Minister of Environment and Sustainability

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Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu met his Singaporean counterpart, Grace Fu, the Minister of Environment and Sustainability on Friday, 07 October 2022 at the Department's Head Quarters in Pretoria.

The meeting was aimed at strengthening the existing economic ties, exchange ideas on water resource management and to discuss possible areas of cooperation amongst others.

The gathering was also attended by Deputy Minister David Mahlobo, and the Department's Director General, Dr Sean Phillips. Singapore delegation list of attendees were comprised of High Commissioner of Singapore to South Africa Zainal Arif Mantaha, Chief Negotiator for Climate Change Joseph Teo, and Woo Yong Keong, who is a Senior Assistant Director.

The engagement between two ministers mainly focussed on sharing views about; wastewater treatment initiatives, responding to drought and other natural disasters, mitigating the impact of climate change, private sector collaboration and desalination of sea water and water re-use as a means of augmenting water supply.

In his opening remarks Minister Mchunu highlighted that South Africa enjoys very cordial relations with Singapore, and both countries continue to support each other which is something that has contributed to the growth of economic benefits for both countries.

"We intend to continue strengthening and nourishing our bilateral relations with Singapore. We would also like to learn from them on how they are addressing water and sanitation challenges in their country, our poor sanitation services management is resulting in water pollution and this needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency", Minister Mchunu said.

Minister Grace Fu indicated that desalination of sea water is very big in Singapore and this is made possible by public private partnership because it is a very expensive excessive. Minister Grace Fu encouraged South Africa to take the same route of private sector collaboration with regard to the issue of desalination.

During the assembly Singaporean Minister Grace Fu extended an invitation to Minister Mchunu to visit her country with the purpose of bearing witness to water supply and sanitation services issues.

After the fruitful engagement, Minister Mchunu handed some gifts and exchanged pleasantries with Grace Fu as a token of appreciation to his Singaporean counterpart.

Fhatuwani Tshikulumela

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY

