

# INTERNET ARTICLE

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**30 March 2022**

## **Minister Senzo Mchunu declares support to Rand Water**

Minister Senzo Mchunu of the Department of Water and Sanitation addressed the media on 29 March 2022. The media briefing follows allegations made by Solly Msimanga of the Democratic Alliance in Gauteng.

The allegations made by Msimanga include, amongst others, poor communication by Rand Water ahead of its planned maintenance on pipelines and failure to provide water tankers during such planned maintenance and incompetence.

During the briefing, Minister Mchunu was accompanied by Advocate Matshidiso Hashatse, the Chairperson of the Rand Water Board, as well as Mr. Sipho Mosai, the Chief Executive of the entity.

The Minister started by stating the Department's commitment to delivering water and sanitation services to the citizens of the Republic is without end, even when we are drawing closer to the end of Water month.

Minister Mchunu stated that even during challenges such as drought, climate change, corruption, and water scarcity, the Department of Water and Sanitation, along with its entities, are hard at work in ensuring that there is constant supply of water to South Africans.

The Minister continued to explain that maintenance of infrastructure is a necessity. "There is unfortunately no opportune time to carry out maintenance of pipelines or water infrastructure. Water is a commodity which needs to be in continuous supply but in order to ensure longevity of this supply, maintenance is a necessity," said the Minister.

The Minister found it utterly shocking that when Rand Water plans on maintaining its infrastructure, same is considered to be an inconvenience. He further declared that the Department is in support

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of Rand Water and that the entity must continue to stick to how they do things, and also emphasising that the entity is efficient.

Minister Mchunu reprimanded the notion of people who politicise matters about water. He cautioned that water is a very sensitive matter and that discussing issues surrounding the delivery of water gets emotional sometimes.

The Minister emphasised on the fact that Rand Water's communication is not poor. "Over and above communicating with municipalities, the entity also issues communiques to citizens via its website and social media platforms", highlighted the Minister. Municipalities and citizens are also able to prepare accordingly as the commune is issued timeously.

Furthermore, the Minister explained that the reason why Rand Water notifies municipalities is to ensure that municipalities make alternative provisions for water supply, through water tankers – this is not an obligation which rests with the entity.

"It is high time that we hold municipalities accountable for their failures and not skirt off their responsibilities to national government", said Mchunu.

**Nthabiseng Dhlamini**

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