

INTERNET ARTICLE

The Department of Water and Sanitation partners with Lebalelo Water Users Association to alleviate water challenges in Limpopo

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In a bid to tighten the public and private sector partnerships in the water sector, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu along with the Chief Executive of the Lebalelo Water Users Association, Bertus Bierman recently launched the Olifants Management Model (OMM) Programme at the Cullinan Hotel in Cape Town.

The Olifants Management Model Programme is a collaboration between Commercial Water Users, represented by the Lebalelo Water User Association and Government. The programme aims to achieve synergy between the public and private sector and in doing so, improve socio-economic growth through the cost-effective provision of potable and bulk raw water infrastructure to defined areas in the Limpopo Province.

Addressing delegates at the launch, Bierman said that the programme is set to improve socio-economic growth in Limpopo through the acceleration of Olifants River Water Resource Development Plan (ORWRPDP) and the provision of cost-effective potable water and raw water infrastructure in the province.

He expressed his excitement to partner with the Department of Water and Sanitation and pledged that there will also be a partnership with the mining sector. Hence the official launch coincided with the Africa Mining Indaba which is currently underway in Cape Town.

"What we also want to do is to ensure that we help create more jobs," he said.

Supporting Bierman, Minister Mchunu said the OMM Programme is significant as it brings government and the private sector together. This is one of the resolutions taken during the National Water and Sanitation Summit which was held earlier this year.

"This is a 50/50 partnership, and we aim to deliver on our mandate on the side of government," he said.

Minister Mchunu also implored officials that the implementation of the programme has to be a success, not only for people to regain trust in government but most importantly, to show that government and the private sector can indeed work together and work together well.

"I call on everyone here, both from the Department and the Association to effectively implement this project. Let us do what is required. Be transparent and honest public servants," he said.

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"People aren't asking us for much. They just want water. Pure water. No sugar or honey added in the water. Water, it's that simple. Surely this can't be a difficult task to perform," he concluded.

The launch was also attended by Territory Senior Partner: PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Africa Dion Shango along with the Chairperson of the Lebalelo Water User Association Prakashim Moodliar who both pledged their support for the implementation of the project which is set for completion in 2024.

Lebogang Maseko