



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's mandate is ensuring that there is water for all – DM

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The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) says the department is mandated to ensure that there is enough water for all communities.

Addressing the community of Kwa-Nongoma in KwaZulu-Natal on 24 April 2015, Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete noted that “On the other hand, the municipalities are entrusted to provide water to individual households. This task is very difficult because there must be co-operation between many stakeholders before we can provide water. For example the department must work with the Water Board operating in this area. The Water Board must work with the Zululand District Municipality which is the Water Services Authority (WSA). The Zululand Municipality must work with all the Local Municipalities which are Water Services Providers (WSP).

“We are here today as part of the government mechanism to facilitate Public Participation. This Imbizo is yours. It is your platform to talk to your government.

“As government we are also here to account on the work we are doing in this area of Nongoma. I know the Zululand District Municipality is made up of 5 local municipalities. These local municipalities include, Edumbe, uPhongolo, Abaqulusi, Nongoma and Ulundi. The 5 local municipalities are in different levels of development in relation to the provision of services. Our vision as government is that we want to see communities with schools, clinics, roads, visible policing, welfare programmes for the aged and disabled, with potable water and adequate sanitation. I am here today representing the department,” said the DM.

“The local municipalities must provide water to individual households and industries who are the consumers of water. The water consumers must pay for the water they consume so that the local municipalities can provide better quality water to the consumers”.

In all the 5 local municipalities a number of people remain without potable drinking water. Some remain without adequate sanitation. “Those of us with water must protect our water resource so that government can supply those without water. Our provision of water is affected by many factors such as



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inadequate budgets, lack of technical skills, water pollution, droughts, water leaks and old water infrastructure. We must work together to protect our water resource, and direct our children to take careers in water and sanitation relevant skills. We must set up water committees that will work with the municipalities to monitor and address water challenges”, the DM added.

The Traditional Leaders must work with women in the cleaning of rivers and educate communities on the need to keep our rivers clean and healthy. “Currently our main projects for water supply include Nongoma Water Supply, Usuthu Water Purification Works and Henenende Water Supply. All these when put together are aimed at supporting the existing water system to supply water beyond the current serviced areas,” she noted. Government has noted the challenges that abound but “we also need to talk together and work out the best fit mechanisms for the provision of water in this District of Zululand. With this Imbizo we seek to further involve and collaborate with you in the provision of water for the people of this area,” she explained.

In her conclusion she explained that “As we seek to provide water to the people we have learnt a lot from these experiences of water shortages. Individual households will be supported to harvest their own water through water tanks. The department will ensure that we explore the possibility of also harvesting underground water through boreholes. The department will also ensure that the existing water facilities such as water treatment plants and water reservoirs are expanded to cater for the new and growing communities and the industrial demands of today,” she added.

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