



## **INTERNET ARTICLE**

### **Do not abuse the poor – Minister Mokonyane**

**13 May 2015**

*The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Minister, Nomvula Mokonyane, has made an impassioned plea to those in authority, be it at the workplace, public office, or private entities not to abuse the poor and needy members of the public.*

*She said it is shame for anyone in position of power to use authority invested in them to make it a weapon to achieve “their own ends and wrongful means.”*

*Minister Mokonyane noted these sentiments when she addressed a huge crowd of local and neighbouring community members of Sedibeng residents at the Saul Tsoetsi Community Hall in Zone 14, Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle on Tuesday, 12 May 2015.*

*She pointed out that many residents are finding it difficult to get assistance from the very same people who have been appointed to help them. “We always receive reports from people who are complaining that they are not being helped to garner assistance they are supposed to receive at most of the public institutions available to them.*

*The Minister said it was worrying to always being confronted by these kinds of reports from the community. “What is worrying is that most of these poor people cannot afford to meet the corruption-riddled demands of these people who demand some sorts of cash from these people residents. Some residents complain that they are tossed from one point to another in what can be described as sheer abuse of power. This must stop. Government was elected by the people to work for the people,” Minister Mokonyane said.*

*The Minister stressed that the Department has now concentrated on empowering local communities through projects that are being earmarked for those specific residents.*

*Minister Mokonyane made it quite clear that DWS does not entertain the question of issuing tenders, but that the jobs to be done coming out of the supposed tenders, will be distributed as such to empowering local communities. “Local economic development is one of the central key*



## water & sanitation

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*government policy aimed at developing and empowering local residents to grow,” Minister Mokonyane added.*

*She stressed that government wanted to work with people who are keen on developing their local communities and not just people who are looking to benefit themselves.*

*The Minister also noted that local labour brokers were no longer going to be used because there were lots of complaints about them. “We need to utilise people – local or appointed by government - who will operate to serve the interests of local residents.*

*She added that government is appealing to local residents to work with it through community-elected groups to empower their people. “The real best thing for us as government will like to see happening is the partnerships with locals. Projects teams will be elected by both the State and the communities to work together to find solutions to our problems. Help desks will be established and we urge people to come forward and utilise them, “Minister Mokonyane concluded.*

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