



INTERNET ARTICLE

Government urges communities to work with the state to improve services

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The Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Nomvula Mokonyane has appealed to Limpopo communities to work and cooperate with government to improve and better services to the people.

Addressing community members of Limpopo province at the Karibu Leisure Resort during the Limpopo Water and Sanitation Summit in the Mopani District on Thursday, 9 July 2015, Minister Mokonyane said “I have come here to earnestly request for your co-operation and a meeting of the minds towards the ideal of this government of the people to really and truly better the lives of South Africans”, adding that “I’m here today to make an appeal to all of us to enter into a phase of renewal in dealing with issues of water and sanitation. Thus we all have to accept that it cannot be “business as usual” in the manner in which we address the challenges at hand.”

This process, she noted, can only be achieved through the delivery of these very essential services DWS has been mandated to deliver. “It is always important to remember where we come from in order for us to have a clear view of where we are going. This we do not do in order to feel sorry for ourselves but rather to appreciate the road we have travelled. And also, put into perspective the reality of where we need to be going to. As a department we are guided by the National Development Plan, African National Congress (ANC) manifesto and the second National Water Resource Strategy in our work,” said the Minister.

DWS resolved that it will apply a seamless integrated water approach, something that has to become the norm in the water sector. “Essentially, this is a co-ordinated approach that is inter-dependent and inter-related to other departments at national level, provincial and local government including the private sector, civil society, and to the people,” she added.

Minister Mokonyane stressed that this approach will ensure that DWS provides a sustainable and holistic approach across the value chain of water supply, from source to tap and from tap back to source. “Our engagement with local government has identified a number of challenges; prominent of which were the issues of ageing infrastructure, lack of budgets for operations and maintenance, poor technical capacity and lack of proper water and sanitation plans. And Limpopo, is not an exception,” warned the Minister.

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