



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS strengthens stakeholder engagement through Community Management Forums**

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A number of role players are standing shoulder to shoulder with the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure there is a multiplicity of voices and ownership in charting the way forward in the water sector.

The Community Management Forums (CMFs) have been established in all nine catchments to ensure that all role-players are fully consultant, forms part of the decision making process and are kept abreast about all the developments happening within their Catchment Management Areas.

Speaking at the Day 2 of the Kingfisher Conference, Pongola Proto CMA Mr Nkosingani Mkhize said the CMFs were very critical in the management of local water management.

“The strength of the CMFs is based on the stakeholders they represent rather than statutory powers,” Mkhize said.

He said these were one of the vehicles utilised to assist in the establishment of the Proto Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs).

“These CMFs play a vital role in building and maintaining the credibility of these institutions as they create a platform for all interested parties including the NGOs, academic institutions, professionals in dealing with a number of pertinent issues in the sector,” Mkhize said.

Despite the positive achievements that the CMFs have recorded, they continue to fight for support from the local government and to ensure that actions taken are addressed timeously.

Mkhize appealed to the delegates to carve out a place for themselves in the water sector, saying that each one of the institutions had a vitally important role to play.

“There are some very pertinent issues such as housing developments, commercial developments and infrastructure refurbishment and other related issues which affect our daily lives and all stakeholders must play a leading role,” Mkhize concluded.

**Lucky Makgarengi**