



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Deputy Minister urges delegates to shine spotlight on War on Leaks Programme**

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Delegates at the workshop on War on Leaks programme were given marching orders by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation Pamela Tshwete to step up their efforts in drumming up support for the programme in their respective provinces.

The aim of the workshop, which was held at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, was to take stock of the progress made in the first intake of trainees who were trained as plumbers, artisans and water agents.

The War on Leaks programme was announced by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address in 2015 to curb the high volume of water loses. The water loses have cost the country to the tune of more than R7 billion resulting from leaking taps and illegal connections. Since its launch, the programme has trained 3 000 youths and will take a further 7 000 in its second phase.

Deputy Minister Tshwete told the delegates that in their visit with Minister Nomvula Mokanyane in Mpumalanga they noted that there was a need for an aggressive communication to make stakeholders aware of the programme.

“When you go back to your provinces, you must invite your stakeholders and run workshop similar to the one we are having. As provinces you should know where the trainees are and where they have been placed in municipalities,” Tshwete told the delegates.

She urged the delegates to cascade information about the programme to students, saying that paying salaries to trainees during their training was not as important as the principal issue the youth acquiring these much-need skills.

Stakeholders were urged to take ownership of the programme in a bid to ensure that when entering it, students were better equipped about its aim. The Deputy Minister said although



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the students were given stipends, the programme was not meant to give salaries, but that it was geared towards imparting the necessary skills to trainees.

Tshwete said government should lead the way in appointing the trainees. There were enough provinces for all the 15 000 trainees to be appointed and appealed to the private sector to come to the party by employing the trainees.

She said she will visit the provinces, especially those with a high volume of water losses to check the progress made. "We need to work together with our sector partners to ensure that we deal with the high volumes of water losses so that they are manageable. It falls up on all us that this programme becomes a success," Deputy Minister Tshwete said.

**Hosia Sithole**