



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane excited with the first MinMEC engagement

24 January 2017

In an effort to foster greater coordination between different spheres of government in the water and sanitation sector, the Minister of Water and Sanitation and her provincial colleagues held a MinMEC meeting, the first of its kind in the sector.

The MinMEC, held at OR Tambo Airport's Sun International on Tuesday, was a meeting between Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and her Cooperative Governance counterparts in the nine provinces to address issues of common interest and to map out ways of tackling challenges in the sector.

Minister Mokonyane said although there has been continued communication between herself and her colleagues in the provinces, the MinMEC was necessary for them collectively to tackle challenges in the water and sanitation sector given the varied and magnitude of issues they had to deal with.

She said: "Today we held our first MinMEC on Water and Sanitation. Given the challenges that we face in the areas of water and sanitation, we felt it necessary to coordinate a formalized and coherent approach that will allow ourselves as the national government and provinces to better manage the water resources of the country."

Mokonyane said the coordination of different spheres of government was the bases for improvement in planning and financial management and key in the roll out of water and sanitation services.

She reiterated the need to go about delivering services informed by the National Development Plan (NDP), saying: "In 2009, the Government of South Africa adopted the outcomes based approach to improve the way it plans and manages work to realize the society it has always envisioned and that the NDP aspires to by 2030."

In the area of water and sanitation, South Africa should rub shoulders with nations that have made significant strides, proving that its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was not a matter of paying lip service but enjoyed a pride of place in the government's agenda.

Despite the recent rainfalls, which provided a respite in the face of drought, Minister Mokonyane said the meeting had noted that these rains have not had much impact on dam levels across the country, urging the public to adhering to water restrictions as this is the only way to stave off disaster.

"We are still firmly in a drought and have not recovered significantly to relax the restrictions to water use that we have implemented in a number of provinces," Mokonyane concluded.



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