



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

SA Statistician-General recognises achievements of RDP goals made by Department of Water and Sanitation

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Statistician-General for Statistics South Africa, Pali Lehohla said the Department of Water and Sanitation has increasingly met the promise of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), saying that good progress has been made in dealing with challenges of underdevelopment.

Lehohla said government as a whole needed to work as a unit so that departments cluster their services, adding that currently the work that was being done showed that services were not provided as a package.

Lehohla made his presentation on the second day of a workshop by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation, which is currently taking place in Birchwood Hotel, Ekurhuleni.

The aim of the workshop is to enhance the work of the committee in dealing with pertinent issues around water and sanitation.

“Unless government has an integrated planning system that holds it together, there will not be less service satisfaction as is the case in some areas of KwaZulu-Natal shows 80 % of the population having access to water but are not satisfied,” said Lehohla.

He cited water and sanitation as major worries and said education was the backdrop on which some of these and other developmental concerns could be addressed.

Lehohla said much has been achieved in the areas of water and sanitation but emphasised that skills were needed to give impetus to the work of government, urging that data that is available at StatsSA should be used by government departments to plan.

“This will help a situation where today defines itself,” said Lehohla, adding government policy should show that there is unity between the different departments. He said departments such as Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements should have a common policy in pursuit of the developmental agenda.



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Lehohla also mentioned the issue of up-skilling the youth so that they can contribute meaningfully to the development of the country, saying that water storage during the current period in which the country is facing the real and serious drought, the skilled youth would have played a major part to deal with the challenge.

Hosia Sithole