



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane declares Zero Tolerance to vandalism of water infrastructure

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Although the country is faced with the challenge of ageing infrastructure as well as migration of people from rural areas to urban, the shockingly increasing rate of theft and vandalism of water infrastructure contributes largely to water shortages. This notion was raised by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, during a business briefing with different water stakeholders on 25 November 2014 in Sandton, Gauteng.

Minister Mokonyane expressed her disappointment about residents who deliberately remove infrastructure which is meant to assist civilians in accessing clean water and use it for their own personal gain. She emphasised that such criminal activity will not be tolerated and that the department is working closely with the justice system maintains that such people should receive the harshest of sentences. The Minister maintains that perpetrators must be brought to book and dealt with accordingly. "Stealing parts of infrastructure that provides people with basic services is a serious violation of human rights and should be viewed as a serious offence in the eyes of the law", the Minister said.

Mokonyane added that the department had noted with concern that communities frustrated with delayed service delivery resort to vandalism of existing water infrastructure, and that this only takes the department backwards. She urged communities to be patient as government is in the process of initiating water forums to create and strengthen meaningful partnerships and alliances with stakeholders in the water sector. This will ensure that there is a speedy intervention in areas that are still experiencing backlogs.

*The business briefing, which was hosted by the Department in partnership with The New Age newspaper, was held under the theme **"Radical socio-economic transformation through accelerated delivery of water and sanitation services"**. It was an initiative to engage with several stakeholders in the water sector on matters related to water and sanitation. Minister Mokonyane also*

said that such a platform was to try and bring the private sector on board and persuade them to invest in water infrastructure.

Another issue that also formed part of the discussions was the process the Department of Water and Sanitation has embarked upon towards reviewing the National Water Act and the Water Services Act to ensure that people are the sole custodians and beneficiaries of water supply, rather than it benefitting only businesses.

Maduvha Maseda

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For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, Director, Media Liaison at 0828742942

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