



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Internet Article

South Africa and Zambia continues to forge relations

15 January 2016

At a bilateral meeting held on 14 January 2016, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and the new Minister of Energy and Water Development from Zambia, Dora Siliya, met to discuss a possible collaboration for water development in both countries.

The meeting was held at Gallagher Estate in Midrand and Minister Siliya was accompanied by five delegates from her office. Minister Dora Siliya was appointed in October 2015 after Zambia Ministry of Energy and Water Development was just separated from the Mines, Energy and Water Development in September 2015.

This is not the first bilateral to take place between the two countries, formal relations were established in 1992. Relations between the two countries were further enhanced during reciprocal State Visits in 2009 by President Zuma to Zambia, and in 2010 by former President Rupiah Banda to South Africa.

Zambia just like any country in SADC is also affected by drought. Water supply in urban areas is intermittent, with an average supply of 16 hours per day on average. The highest intermittency has been measured in the small Luapula Utility with 6 hours per day. The only utility providing continuous supply was in Chipata and the North-western Water and Sewerage Company.

As part of discussions held in the bilateral, Minister Mokonyane shared her experiences in the field of water development as well water for growth and development.

Furthermore, the bilateral has allowed for future engagements to take place where both ministries will be able to share knowledge and best practices on how to deal with water development as a key issue.

As both countries strive towards providing water to each citizen it is still critical for everyone to treat water as a critical resource for growth and development and to cherish each drop.

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