

Let's work together – Minister Mokonyane

Minister Nomvula Mokonyane this morning made a passionate plea to water and sanitation sector stakeholders to work with members of the communities to find solutions to challenges that bedevil service delivery.

SHARED VISION

Displaying a sincere sense of appeal and sincerity, Minister Mokonyane said that “Today, we present ourselves before you with humility,” adding that it was with the same humility and sense of togetherness that government wants to engage all role-player to work as a unit in the water and sanitation space.

Addressing the first of a two-day Water and Sanitation Summit at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, east of Johannesburg on Friday, 1 August 2014, Minister Mokonyane explained that it is important “to remember where we come from to have a clear view of where we are going.”

Significantly, the Minister reminded the audience not to forget the road – struggle for liberation – they had travelled up to so far. The present democratic government took over when access to water was below 60% mainly in urban and primarily the then so-called white areas. Humane sanitation services and access to water provision was unknown in Black area.

Today, government is inspired by “our people’s resolve to embrace the National Development Plan (NDP) which gives them hope for the future”.

South Africans, according to Minister Mokonyane, want government to implement an administration whose qualities include decisive and authoritative leadership across the State, communities and the private sector to bring about radical socio-economic transformation.

Minister Mokonyane stressed that government, as part of its drive to attain this radical socio-economic transformation, needs to ensure that solutions to water and sanitation challenges must be “about opening the sector to those who have been disenfranchised.”

This process will be attained only by providing skills development, economic empowerment and access to quality water and dignified sanitation.

Minister Mokonyane stressed the importance of water ownership patterns and water use rights in the country. She added that a collective drive to educate the masses including to create awareness, of all that is needed to preserve the resource and security of water supply and innovation were the catalysts towards achieving our objectives.

“We can achieve this, only if we put communities first in what we do and demonstrate that it is business unusual,” Minister Mokonyane concluded.

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