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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTENET ARTICLE

Long-term water plan crucial

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South Africa needs a clear and concrete plan that should be in place to deal with all water-related issues in the country.

This is the view expressed by State President Jacob Zuma during the launch of the War on Leaks (WoL) Programme in Zwide Township's Dan Qeqe Stadium in Port Elizabeth on Friday, 28 August 2015.

Addressing a multitude of more than 15 000 during a jam-packed event, President Zuma told the cheering crowd that he had already held talks with Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Nomvula Mokonyane and her top management team to work towards devising and facilitating such a plan. "It is important to have such a plan in place because this will put us in a better position to monitor and manage the processes that go along with the controlling side of the process," the President noted.

Government needs to commit itself towards the objectives and vision of such a plan, according to President Zuma.

There are so many possibilities that could be looked at from this plan. He said the State could look at using or adopting desalination processes, opting for drawing water from two of the country's rivers, Tugela and Orange Rivers inland through a pipeline.

The country could also use the process of pipelines to draw water from one of the world's biggest and largest river, Congo River to this country. "There are many opportunities that beckon to us and it is for us to accept and use them for our and the country's benefit," the President said.

President Zuma called on the youth to take the challenge of revolutionising the process of water suppliers and accessibilities in South Africa by using their creative minds.

"This is your chance to show the country and the world what you can do with the knowledge and resources that are available to you. The country needs more people like you with knowledge to help educate and make communities aware about the value of water. Talk to people and your neighbours to



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impress and create awareness among our people. They are ready to listen to what you say and government will back you and support your endeavours,” the President added.

He called on the youth to start developing technical minds stressing that they should take pride and be patriots committed to working for the economic growth and development of the State.

The President explained that in a few years he will be a pensioner but threw a challenge to the youth to do what he planned to work on during his spare time – “to be registered as a volunteer Water Ambassador working for free.”

He concluded by challenging the youth again to work towards attaining progress in terms of plugging the issue of water leaks now. “You can do it and we are watching you,” said President Zuma.

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