



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Mpumalanga State of the Province Address**

*Friday 27 February 2015*

*The Mpumalanga State of the Province Address was held in Mbombela on Friday, 27th February 2015. The premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza addressed those who attended at the provincial headquarters in Mbombela. According to the premier the majority of citizens in the province enjoy access to basic services such as electricity, water and sanitation.*

*The premier also said, an amount of R2, 7bn was set aside for water and sanitation projects in the next financial year. According to the premier, the province is currently busy with the construction of 84 bulk water supply and 43 water reticulation projects across all municipalities. Premier David Mabuza said in his address that communities should be drinking piped water by the end of December 2015, in a province that has been rocked by service delivery protests in the past. Steel reservoirs with a storage capacity of two mega-litres were completed to cater for the areas in critical need of water in the Mbombela, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge local municipalities.*

*There will be construction of strategic dams to increase the availability of water supply for development in the province. In this regard, Mbombela will commence with processes leading to construction of a dam that will incorporate hydro-energy generation. He also indicated that interventions in Bushbuckridge are beginning to yield desired results. Many villages now have access to water. He said, they have partnered with the National Department of Water and Sanitation and Rand Water to provide water to communities.*

*For Phase 1, R298 million has been invested to connect 24 villages, benefitting 15 000 households. The premier acknowledged that in some villages water availability is at times inconsistent due to uncontrolled, high water losses, unauthorised use and vandalism on infrastructure and that they are addressing the situation.*

*Phase 2, covers a total of 69 villages at a cost of R601 million, which will benefit 23 340 households. The reality is, there are communities that have been waiting for permanent water supply, therefore boreholes will be drilled in all areas to provide reliable and constant water supply. Municipalities will be tasked with ensure that the water supply is supplemented with boreholes within the next 3 to 4 months. Where boreholes exist, but are non-functional, the province will refurbish all these boreholes within the next 3-5 months to ensure that people have access to water. All these interventions will ensure a substantial reduction in the number of people without access to water. However, he conceded that despite the progress in delivering water, there are still about 33 377 (5%) households without access to water.*

*In the next financial year, investments in excess of R1.8 billion will be made available to continue the radical programme to deliver universal access of water to all those communities. However, a number of rural farm areas in the Piet Retief town of Mkhondo Municipality including areas such as Entombe, Ntithane, Ezitholeni, Congo, Alma, Madola, Waterside, Krom, Bergplaas and Empumelelo villages among others, are still living in hardship without access to water, sanitation and electricity.*



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*For 2015/16, the province has set aside resources to ensure the development and implementation of four bulk and distribution water schemes to deliver water to these communities within the next 6 to 8 months. The challenge of intermittent water supply in some areas of the province is still persistent and the costs for water reticulation have not yet been brought to minimal levels.*

*As a consequence, the War-on-Leaks Programme for water conservation and water demand management will be scaled-up and implemented by all municipalities as part of revenue enhancement strategies. The province will continue to upgrade wastewater treatment plants in order to connect the people to decent sanitation services. A budget in excess of R500 million for the continued roll-out of sanitation services in the province has been set.*

*This is crucial in the province's efforts to protect its natural water resources and environment from pollution as it strives to make all of its municipalities Green Drop compliant in terms of the final effluent discharged into rivers.*

**Thabang Molai**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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