



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **"Water master plan needed for municipalities", says Minister Mokonyane.**

17 March 2015

*The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane has called on the Eastern Cape government to create a provincial "water master plan" so that the province can be able to supply members of the community with decent water and sanitation. A master plan refers to a comprehensive and far reaching plan of action which is well thought out as opposed to a range of short term interventions.*

*Minister Mokonyane and her deputy, Pam Tshwete, led a departmental delegation to meet Buffalo City Metro Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha and several provincial government officials. Together with Greg Benito, Buffalo City Municipality's senior technician they took a tour of the East Bank water treatment plant. Addressing the media at the water treatment site, Mokonyane said there was a 30% backlog in delivery of sanitation in Buffalo City Municipality, which was mostly in the rural parts of the metro.*

*According to the Minister the provincial government does not have a water master plan. "Almost 2% of the communities are not serviced with water in Buffalo City although there are interventions such as water tanks and water trucks delivering water". The Minister also raised the ongoing water shortage affecting parts of the metro. The affected areas include Kayser's Beach, Needs Camp and Ncera villages.*

*Minister Mokonyane raised the issue of poor planning and failure to maintain infrastructure for water shortages in the country when she was speaking at the water Indaba in Grahamstown. She said that it is important for municipalities to start applying the "back to basics" approach which has been adopted by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Pravin Gordhan.*

*The country needs infrastructure to connect from a source-to-tap-and back-source. There is also need for a maintenance plan. The issue of operations and maintenance is something which also needs attention. "There is no logic for us to build new infrastructure if we do not look after what we have", Minister Mokonyane said.*

**Thabang Molai**

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

**For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison, DWS, at 082 874 2942**

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:**  
[www.dwa.gov.za](http://www.dwa.gov.za)