



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane supports call for municipalities to improve their management systems

19 September 2014

The Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) supported a call urging municipalities to improve their management systems in a bid to stimulate economic growth.

Chairing an Interactive Panel Discussion on Collaborative Governance, Planning and Delivery during the Presidential Local Government Summit 2014, Minister Mokonyane was forthright in supporting a call for municipality officials to serve people better and effectively.

The theme for the summit was simply titled “Back to Basics.” - meaning those in authority should go back to the simple basics of delivering basic services.

The panel consisted of, amongst others, the Premiers of Gauteng David Makhura and KwaZulu-Natal Senzo Mchunu, as well as the Executive Mayor of the City of Cape Town, Patricia de Lille.

Minister Mokonyane pointed out in her support for the President’s call, that strong moves should be undertaken to focus on building capable and committed municipal administrative systems and processes.

President Jacob Zuma made the call during his speech, urging municipalities to improve their management systems moving forward, to get better audit reports for each local authority each year from the Auditor-General.

President Zuma said this can be achieved only if municipalities ensured their officials possessed the necessary minimum skills. “Government has responded to improve professionalism and the management of local government by introducing amendments to local government legislation, for example the Municipal System Amendment Act,” said the President.

“Chief financial officers should be skilled in what they are doing, engineers and other technical staff should also be experts in what they have been employed to do,” President Zuma said.

He urged delegates at the summit to align their objectives the country’s socio-economic blueprint up to 2030, the National Development Plan. “The Plan has identified a number of areas for targeted action in improving governance and administration. Some of the priority areas to improve delivery include achieving a clearer separation between the roles of the political principals and the administrative heads of municipalities,” President Zuma said.

He added that accountability and oversight in local governance must be improved, or reinforced.

President Zuma said despite shortcomings of municipalities, there are many areas of excellence in local government that could be leveraged on. “There are municipalities that are functioning effectively, with effective political and administrative systems, with strong internal



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

audit and financial management structures. There are municipalities in which councils are actively involved in monitoring the implementation of all governance resolutions,” said President Zuma.

He added that “these municipalities are characterised by clean administration where the staff complement as a collective prioritise fraud prevention, and risk management. These municipalities also have a zero tolerance to poor performance, and conduct regular performance reviews and implement corrective measures where needed.”

President Zuma urged municipalities that struggled to carry out their mandate to learn from experiences of successful ones. “We also commit to support all struggling municipalities. Every municipality must be fully functional and efficient, for the sake of our people who need reliable and efficient services. If municipalities do not improve in spite of support, we will have no alternative but to use all constitutional powers and legislative opportunities in the quest to ensure that our communities are served better,” said President Zuma.

Ike Motsapi

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: DWS’ Media Liaison Director, Sputnik Ratau, on cell number 0828742942.

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:

www.dwa.gov.za