



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Minister urges communities to protect water infrastructure**

**19 September 2014**

Destruction and vandalism of water infrastructure is one of the major setbacks resulting in water shortages in South Africa, says Minister Nomvula Mokonyane of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Minister Mokonyane noted these sentiments as she urged community members to protect the infrastructure because their lives depend on it.

The Minister made this plea during the launch of the Mathibela Water Reticulation Project in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, on 13 September 2014.

Mokonyane explained to a happy and enthusiastic crowd that the government is aware of the desperation of people living in areas that are currently without full access to clean water, emphasizing that illegal water connections and destruction of water infrastructure in areas that have received water is not a solution. "This will only take the nation and service delivery backwards," said Minister Mokonyane.

Research has shown that as much as 37% of water is lost through unaccounted for water, which includes leaking taps and illegal connections, amongst others. This unaccounted for water costs South Africa about R7 billion per year.

The Minister emphasised that the department has knowledge of the areas currently without water and that plans are in place to ensure that water is available for all, adding that communities should be patient and work together with the government to address water-related issues around their areas.

**Maduvha Maseda**

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

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