



INTERNET ARTICLE

“Refuse to be comfortable with identities that divide us” - Minister Mokonyane

23 April 2015

Water and Sanitation Minister, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane made this bold and touching statement as she addressed community members of Soshanguve Block X in Tshwane today, 23 April 2015. Mokonyane visited the Soshanguve community as part of the Anti-Xenophobic Imbizo process to address the issues of xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals across the country.

The Minister said that she condemns in the extreme the embarrassing and senseless acts of killing and torturing of foreign nationals by some South African citizens, adding that such acts which are done by only a few people are tarnishing the beautiful image and identity of South African people. “What is happening in South Africa today is totally un-African and does not reflect our character as South Africans and Africans; it is simply criminal conduct hiding behind narrow excuses and the people responsible should be prosecuted because they are criminals”

She urged community members to work together to bring back the spirit of Ubuntu and take a stand against such behaviour by saying “such shall not happen in my yard”.

Mokonyane advised that community members should form various street committees that would assist in monitoring activities around their areas to avoid such a seed ever being planted in their communities.

The Minister went on to remind the community members that the good fruits of democracy that they so gladly enjoy today were not fought-for solely by



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, but by other African countries too. “Our dear brothers and sisters opened their hearts and homes for us when we needed them”.

Dineo Moloko, a grade 12 learner at Kgadime Matsepe Secondary school in Soshanguve block V said she was shocked at how inhumane people can be and it’s a good thing that the government is intervening. “We need to work together to end this, how are we supposed to visit other African countries when we continue to treat fellow Africans like this?”, the young lady said.

DWS’ Mokonyane concluded her keynote address by quoting the Freedom Charter saying that “South Africa belongs to those who live in it”.

“The freedom that our heroes and heroines fought for doesn’t kill people”, Minister said.

Maduvha Maseda

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, DWS Director, Media

Liaison: 0828742942

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water and Sanitation portal at: www.dws.gov.za