



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Proper sanitation system for all

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Sanitation is one of the major challenges that the government must address urgently. Increasingly, we read about spilled sewages that flow through the streets in most townships.

However, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Nomvula Mokonyane says she has plans to address the situation immediately. She says her plan includes the eradication of the bucket toilet system and the provision of proper sanitation to communities.

Speaking during a recent debate in the National Council of Provinces the Minister said that her department has developed a 10 Year National Sanitation Programme which seeks to eradicate both the water and sanitation backlogs.

The 10 Year Sanitation Programme will address infrastructure backlogs, infrastructure refurbishment, new connections for the un-served, introduce sustainable Operations and Maintenance for both rural and urban areas, as well as commandeer bulk water and bulk sanitation supply.

Providing proper sanitation services improves good health and the quality of life for those who do not enjoy these services. Improved sanitation facilities can help to reduce the incidence of disease, but only if there is improved hygiene practices and behaviour as well. This therefore calls for a parallel programme of awareness-raising and education as health and hygiene education will encourage and assist people to improve their health and quality of life.

She also urged communities to cooperate with the department by reporting sanitation challenges timeously to the relevant authorities before resorting to strikes and vandalising properties. However, she committed her department to work with other government departments and strive to deliver proper human settlements with access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation.

At the recent water and sanitation summit Minister Mokonyane pleaded with all stakeholders in both government and the private sector to support the department in its efforts to eradicate the sanitation backlog. The Minister has already initiated a project, inviting all stakeholders, including the private sector to bring forward innovative skills and suggestions in dealing with sanitation and bucket system challenges.

It was gracious of the Minister to apologise to the people of South Africa by saying the Department had been over ambitious in hoping to eradicate the bucket backlog by December 2014. However, there is hope that there will be positive results as the department has prioritised the bucket system and set aside a huge budget that will help to meet her target for 2015/16 financial year.

Alice Simelane

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

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