



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### *Vandalism of water infrastructure is pure sabotage - Minister Mokonyane*

25 November 2014

*The Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, says that “theft of cables, vandalism of dams and reservoirs cannot be a petty crime, and instead must be seen as economic sabotage”.*

*Minister expressed these sentiments during the New Age Business Briefing questions and answer session, where she emphasised the importance of protecting infrastructure and community involvement in reporting illegal activities.*

*She stressed that theft of infrastructure and vandalism is one of the dominating illegal activities in South Africa, and one of the problems that deny people their basic right of access to quality service delivery. This results in government losing millions of rands when it spends on replacements and repairs of existing infrastructure due to such illegal activities.*

*Minister Mokonyane said that the department needs to have an integrated maintenance approach that will ensure that existing water supply infrastructure is sufficiently maintained. She called on communities to take the responsibility of reporting theft or vandalism of infrastructure because this denies them the basic right of access to quality water.*

*Minister Mokonyane also indicated that the Department has put plans in place to solve emergency issues and also tighten the security around infrastructure, including involving the criminal justice system to handle such matters.*

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

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