



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Internet Article

Tap drips and leaking pipes to be a thing of the past

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Government is working vigorously to ensure that the water lost through leaks, which in turn flood the streets for days, becomes history. This became evident on Friday, 28 August 2015 as President Jacob Zuma, together with the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, officially launched the national artisan programme called “War on Leaks”. The event was held in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, at the Dan Qeqe stadium in Zwide. The launch attracted over nine thousand people. In attendance were also the 3000 thousand recruited water agents, plumbers and artisans who will be trained to run with the programme.

Delivering the keynote address, His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, emphasized that water is the most critical resource in life. He challenged the youth to be more innovative in coming up with technologies to resolve water challenges in the country. He further mentioned that he had tasked the Department of Water and Sanitation to come up with a fully-fledged National Water Plan and that government will continue building more dams to ensure that enough water is stored to benefit the country.

President Zuma and Minister Mokonyane started the day by visiting several houses to fix leaking taps and pipes and engaged with residents before heading to the stadium where they formally launched the “War on Leaks” project. The Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, Dr Danny Jordan, used the opportunity to apologise to thousands of residents gathered at the stadium for his municipality’s failure to swiftly respond to reported leaks. “The national artisans programme launched today will be very beneficial to our municipalities as we have a shortage of plumbers and artisans”, said Dr Jordaan.

The Premier of Eastern Cape, Mr. Musualle urged residents to work with government and support water conservation programmes “to ensure that together we win the “War on Leaks” and other water provision challenges”. The excited recruited water champions composed a celebratory song that they presented at the event to show appreciation of the programme and that they are prepared to engage in “War on Leaks”. “Government will spend five billion rand to train the artisans, plumbers and water agents over five years. The graduates will then be



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placed in different municipalities to serve their communities”, said the Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane.

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