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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

The delivery of sanitation services is more critical – DWS DG

15 April 2015

The delivery of sanitation services, with a particular emphasis on the eradication of the absolutely undignified bucket system has never been more critical, according to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Director-General (DG), Margaret-Ann Diedricks.

She says that the department's Ten Year Plan cannot and must not be allowed to gather dust, adding that while the delivery of basic services must happen and happen quickly, "we must also be vigilant that all the governance processes and requirements are strictly adhered to" "All the advice around the relevant fiduciary responsibilities are necessary for all of us, with me taking the ultimate accountability, are there for us to look after all that the electorate has given us responsibility" she said.

All the major water infrastructure projects currently underway must be steered towards completion in the allocated timeframes. Proper and timely support to local government must happen within the allowed parameters while being conscious of the need to address the communities' patience and right to services.

Reflecting on the Strategic Plan for 2015/16 to 2019/20 Fiscal years, the DG said "The communities we serve are varied and therefore the team and I must ensure that the plans and delivery timelines must endeavour to release the communities from the frustrations of the society we come from. Our freedom and that of the people we serve cannot be complete until and unless as a team we realise and understand that what we are about is the comfort of the communities, wherever they may be".

She explained that the service delivery tools DWS has, from the Constitution, to the National Water Act, Water Services Act, Water Research Act, including all the relevant policy mandates and strategies, formed a solid basis upon which to build our plans in the next financial year.

Taking up the administrative leadership of the newly-formed Department of Water and Sanitation has landed a new challenge in what "I call my life as a career public servant." The nature of the department and the mandate thereof, as derived from the country's Constitution, together with the political direction of two very well respected and "steeped in community service, leaders embodied in the Minister and Deputy Minister, leads me to believe that all of us have to roll up our sleeves and keep in step and in line with our political leaders," the DG added.

"My mandate as I recognise revolves around ensuring that the Department of Water and Sanitation carries out its task to the letter. The political guidance and direction impacted upon by the government's Plan of Action will drive all our efforts to bring us to the top of the pile in terms of responding to and caring about people's needs," she noted.

"Management has an increased departmental spending which implies that our responsibility is to ensure that all that expenditure is utilised for the good of especially, the underprivileged," DG Diedricks explains.



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She concluded by stressing that everyone have a duty to the people of our beautiful country. She said “we have to and must put all shoulders to the wheel, give all the technical support to our principals and most importantly have pride in what I believe we can all achieve together.”

Ike Motsapi

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