



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water and Sanitation Agency

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South Africa, through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), is guiding the country towards the creation of a single and focused water and sanitation agency whose main aim will be to enhance service delivery.

Minister Nomvula Mokonyane stressed this point during her meeting with the officials of the Mhlathuze Water in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, on Thursday 29 October 2015.

This important meeting with the staff of the water entity was aimed at seeking their support and approval for merging the Mhlathuze Water with Umgeni Water into a single entity that will not only enhance service delivery but also increase prospects of job upliftment, including growth and development for most of the workers.

"I am here to consult with you and also seek approval regarding the way forward in terms of taking this process of combining the operational capacities of these two water utility giants into a single massive force that will empower not only you, but their entire community of KwaZulu-Natal communities" a brimming Minister Mokonyane noted.

She cited the Freedom Charter where it says "South Africa belongs to all who live in it and that all people, irrespective of their colour, race or religion, are equal before the law".

Minister Mokonyane explained that it was for this reason that all South Africans are to enjoy all that the country has to offer. She said as South Africans, we are all participants in building the non-racial society while promoting equality, but she said most importantly, "all of us should work together to create capacity for the growth of the State."

She also reminded the members of the audience that the ruling African National Congress (ANC) is calling on the citizens to work hard towards accelerating the transformation of the State. This process, Minister Mokonyane added, will help increase the capacity of government to enhance service delivery.

"Unfortunately, this process is not going as fast as we had hoped because of lots of divisions and mistrusts among many of our citizens", Minister Mokonyane noted. She told the audience that the capacity of the State to deliver is being killed by the fragmented approach which qualifies relations among South Africans, particularly regarding water and sanitation issues."

The Minister reminded the audience that water, sanitation and electricity are the constitutional rights of citizens and that the rendering of these services to communities is non-negotiable.

She also touched on the National Development Plan (NDP), which she said calls and affirms the rights of communities in relation to the provision of services. "The NDP says we cannot be federal in providing these needs but that the whole country is bound to afford them to all regardless of provincial locations," said Minister Mokonyane.

The Minister stressed that it was important that the State must have seamless capacity to provide these services to the people.



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She pointed out that South Africa is still lagging behind with 10 water boards but that this has to be worked on to produce a single South African Water and Sanitation Agency.

The agency will be a standalone institution which will help with provision of these basic rights to the people as espoused by the Constitution and the NDP.

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