



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### OPINION *PIECE*

#### **Water security is vital as demand increases**

*Tuesday, 10 November 2015 - Pretoria News*

*COLLABORATION between the public and the private sectors are important to learn and understand the risks posed by water shortages. Without water, small businesses and large industries cannot function. Subsistence and commercial farming are largely hit. An energy production facility that uses water to generate power is pointless when water management is inefficient.*

*Poor water quality, limited and unreliable access to water means higher costs for businesses and consumers. Water scarcity provides greater risks for communities' long-term capabilities and has a negative impact on their competitiveness. It also means that communities' to grow and create jobs are at risk. The availability of water directly impacts upon the ability to grow economically and create jobs.*

*South Africa is in a quest to find and accelerate the introduction of new water technologies in water management and treatment.*

*These technologies must also assist in limiting the use of large amounts of water in water-borne toilets and bring out best actions and instruments that do not waste water. The new technologies will thus ensure water use efficiency for both businesses and households.*

*The further strengthening of the public and private sector collaborations will assist in persuading water end-users to change their behavior. The change in behavior will entail in less hassles towards the acceptance of new water meters, water prices and other water use control measures.*

*It is acknowledged that our infrastructure is under pressure as the demand for water continues to grow. The plans are afoot to extend the supply to the previously marginalized areas, particularly where women and children, more so in rural areas, are still subjected to the collection of water from faraway sources. The joint ventures are envisaged to speed up service delivery plans and bring relief in such areas for people to get access to and a taste of clean water and adequate water.*



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*Developing seamless water businesses for future success and water security is a necessity. This will make the sector more efficient and be able to proactively deal with challenges addressing these before they become problems.*

*This will further align the sector with the newly developed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitments and thus ensuring their realization. These SDGs commitments and the ideals of the National Development Goals (NDP) are the drivers of all service delivery outcomes.*

*Demand for water in our country is forever growing with urban areas being more stressed as people search for greener pastures. The impact of climate change and resultant inclement weather have also not been kind to our water resources. We can make the situation better by working together.*

*All of us should strive for success irrespective of where we are. Working towards sustainable water supply for all should be a uniting force. It should make us passionate and results-driven with everybody playing their part. In so doing, we will not be doing justice for ourselves only, but rather for our resources too. We will ensure correct water demand and management measures, protect the environment and thus securing water availability for future generations.*

**Zwakele Thabede**