



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Tripartite MOU signed off to provide relief to drought-stricken Namibia

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The Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS), International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and Rand Water signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Namibian government to provide much-needed relieve to the drought-stricken Namibia.

The MOU, which was signed on Wednesday, 06 April 2017 in Pretoria, is the upshot of President Jacob Zuma's announcement in 2013 to provide a cash-injection of R50 million to Namibia to cushion the impact of drought. The funds will be disbursed through DIRCO's financing vehicle, the African Renaissance Fund (ARF) and will be used to drill boreholes to exploit ground water resources.

The relief will see Namibia's five regions of Ohangwena, Zambezi, Kavango, Omaheke and Kunene benefiting from the projects drilling of boreholes. Rand Water as the implementing agent of the project has already begun working as per the terms of the Agreement and Project Execution Plan (PEP).

Speaking at the signing ceremony, DWS's Director-General Dan Mashitisho, said the signing of the tripartite agreement would give further impetus in the cementing of South Africa-Namibia water cooperation relations, emphasising that this was against the background of the drought that was still tightening its grip in the two countries.

Mashitisho added that the work that was being done at bilateral level with Namibia in the Permanent Water Commission (PWC) formed part of the body of knowledge of the Orange Senqu River.

"The technical cooperation support by South Africa to Namibia on drought relief bears testimony to the political commitment demonstrated by our Heads of States in contributing to the water and sanitation agenda of Africa where African countries committed to increasing their water mix, including among others ground water," said Mashitisho.

DIRCO's Acting Director-General, Kgabo Mahoai, reiterated the centrality of providing this relief to the people of Namibia, saying that that the development partnership between the two countries was in fulfilment of a collective undertaking in pursuit of South Africa's foreign policy agenda.

Chief Financial Officer of Rand Water, Percy Sechemane, said for them this was one of the projects that they took seriously because not only were they looking at themselves from the point of view of how they interacted with neighbouring countries but also from point that South African was getting some of its water from somewhere.

Sechemane said they appreciated the confidence shown by the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of making Rand Water an implementing agent of the project and DIRCO coming to the party to ensure that the resources allocated are actually used for the project.

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