



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

EC summit to address water and sanitation challenges

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The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) together with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as well as other stakeholders in the water sector held a 2 day water service summit from 21-22 November 2018 at the East London Industrial Development Zone (IDZ).

The purpose of the summit was to reflect on the status of water services in the Eastern Cape and plan towards sustainable water and sanitation services for future purposes.

While setting the scene during the summit, the Chairperson of SALGA in the Eastern Cape Councilor Koyo mentioned that 90% of households have access to clean water even though more focus is needed to ensure reliability.

“Equity and redistribution remain important topics we must address. We have observed that in some municipalities the lack of raw bulk water availability stifles growth and development. The reason for this is that water is fully allocated and therefore cannot be made available to unlock local economic development. In this regard we wish to call upon the ministry to re-look at the water allocation process particularly for municipal economic development”, said Koyo.

The Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation Ms. Portia Makhanya presented the technical overview of water and sanitation challenges in the Eastern Cape. In her presentation, she shared the status of the existing water service infrastructure and water conservation and demand management.

“Only 16% of the total number of water supply schemes and 15% of the sanitation schemes are fully operational and have no refurbishment or upgrade requirements. 21% of the total number of infrastructure components has reached their useful lifespan. Water losses and water that is unaccounted for are a major concern within the province”, Makhanya concluded.



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Thandile Ngcume