



INTERNET ARTICLE

National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, a vision for the future

05 February 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation Limpopo Regional Head, Mr Lesiba Tloubatla has emphasised the importance of planning ahead to ensure development of water infrastructure in the province for years to come.

He was speaking at the side lines of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP) provincial workshop that was held recently in the province.

Tloubatla said that the workshop on Master Plan was very critical for the Department as it ensures that government does not plan on its own, rather water sector stakeholders are consulted and an inclusive plan is finalised. Therefore, he added that it was essential that the Department gets inputs from various experts in the province to ensure that their expertise is used for the development of Limpopo.

“Future projections indicate that for example, the town of Polokwane here in Limpopo will rapidly grow in the next 20 years due to the development and the influx of people that will be moving to that town”, said Mr Tloubatla.

The objective of developing the NW&SMP is for structures of State responsible for water resource management, water services and sanitation to make input and agree on the journey towards finalising the obligation of the Constitution, National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals.

The NW&SMP forms part of various initiatives led by the Department of Water and Sanitation and other departments to ensure that water and sanitation services are secure and sustainable, so that they contribute towards meeting the national development objectives

Tloubatla indicated that Master plan will provide an overall perspective of the situation in the water and sanitation sector and a consolidated plan of actions to improve the current situation in order to meet the desired future state of the sector in line with National Development Plan and Sustainable Development goals of 2030.

“South Africa is a water scarce country with ever-growing requirements for water to achieve its developmental and economic growth objectives. The water scarcity situation is further exacerbated by the ever-increasing impact of climate change, with studies further indicating that climate change will result in extreme weather patterns resulting in floods and drought”, he added.

Furthermore, he said the Department is working with neighbouring countries such as Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to tackle the issue of water shortages in the region.

Malope Matlou