



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEAKING NOTES

MINISTER GUGILE NKWINTI

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF NESTLE ZERO WATER TECHNOLOGY PLANT

05 JUNE 2018

Programme Director and Director of Nestle South Africa, Ravi Pillay
Honourable Mayor of Mossel Bay Local Municipality, Councillor Harry Levendal
Swiss Ambassador to South Africa, Helene Budliger-Artieda
Nestle Factory Manager, Chris Ngwendu
Regional Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Western Cape, Rashid Khan
Business Executives
Senior officials of the Department of Water and Sanitation
Members of the media
Esteemed guests
Ladies and gentlemen

The reason for our being here today is to launch the Nestle Zero Water Technology Plant. This day is also apt as World Environmental Day, which is significant more especially during this critical time, when we are still in the throes of a drought that has been with us for the last four years; as a country and the SADC Region.

The situation has led to the Western Cape being declared as one of the drought disaster areas in the country, notwithstanding concerns for the Eastern and Northern Capes, as well as KwaZulu-Natal.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has the mandate to ensure security of supply of water to Water Service Providers for delivery to the public for various uses, i.e. domestic, industrial and agricultural.

I am informed that Mossel Bay has the second largest population in the Eden District with a population size of 94 135 as per the 2016 Community Survey results. According to the forecasts of the Western Cape Department of Social Development, the population was estimated to reach 97 981 in 2017.

It is also worth remembering that at the height of the drought of 2009 in this area, there was a collective effort to look into short, medium and long-term water augmentation plans for the supply schemes of Mossel Bay, Mid Brak and Great Brak River, to great effect at the time.

Programme Director, today's event is important as it is meant to show how Nestle SA seeks to address water use efficiency, while addressing the three critical pillars which are: **Reduce, Reuse** and **Recycle**. This is a commendable effort.

It is worth noting that the plant is in line with the DWS' National Water and Sanitation Master Plan which encourages development of alternative water sources for water security. These include recycle, re-use, desalination and ground water optimisation.

Programme Director, please allow me to detail the Department five pillars: 1. Water and Sanitation and resource infrastructure agency,

2. Water and Sanitation Regulatory authority

3. Water and Sanitation Master Plan

4. Water and Sanitation and resources value add

5. Institutional Reform and realignment

All things being equal, this plant will lead to a reduction on demand thus contributing to an increased life span of water and sanitation infrastructure. This increase in the lifespan of the water infrastructure will assist the department to unlock service delivery backlogs and the development initiatives that will narrow the disparities of living standards within communities.

Programme Director, I would like to applaud Nestle for its Adopt a School initiative in response to the call by our President to give proper regard to all youth programmes this year.

It is imperative for me in recognising the highly skilled human resources within Nestle that I should encourage a strong collaboration between Nestle, the DWS, the local municipality, and the community at large to further consider "Adopt a River" efforts in the neighbourhood. The appreciation and safeguarding of water at source has become a necessity and a means to raise awareness of river health to communities.

This being the first plant of its kind to be launched in the Southern Hemisphere, I would like to encourage other private sector partners to follow suit and showcase their efforts. This can be done through the critical Strategic Water Partners Network where possible.

We are glad that Nestlé as one of the major water users in the Western Cape has initiated such technological efforts. This does not take away our concern for the municipality to lose out on critical revenue once the company goes off-grid.

It is also worth keeping in mind that efforts like we see here today, do not absolve government from its need to addressing sustainable water services, through the major goals that Water Services Authorities (WSA's) should aim to achieve. These are delivery of sustainable water services, integrated water resource management, efficient and effective water services institutional arrangements capacity, and Water Services Provider (WSP) arrangements.

In closing, I congratulate Nestle SA on this grand scheme that they have conceived. I do encourage all of us to continue collaboration and working together for the common good of all South Africans.

Thank you.
Ndi ya bulela.
Ke a leboga.
Ek is dankbaar.