



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Mokonyane says access to finance is key to delivering water infrastructure

05 December 2017

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, said on Tuesday, 05 December 2017, that access to finance was a catalyst for delivery of water infrastructure, but that the cost to deliver such infrastructure was becoming prohibitively expensive.

Speaking at the Water Infrastructure Investment Summit held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Minister Mokonyane said access to finance was the lifeblood of water infrastructure delivery, as was the packaging of the funding model for each project or groups of projects.

“Like South Africa, many developing countries need water infrastructure to improve the livelihoods of their citizens and their quality of life. While there are many constraints to the delivery of water infrastructure, one of the most obvious factors that hampers delivery is project finance,” Minister Mokonyane said.

Minister Mokonyane said her first goal was to seek a new partnership with the business and investment sector to ensure water security in South Africa in a manner that ensures access to safe water and sanitation universally and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She said her second goal was to make water available to enable and encourage economic growth and prosperity in a way that enhances South Africa’s competitiveness.

Minister Mokonyane emphasised that this should be characterised by the best science and innovation that will help make South Africa one of the leading water countries that will enable us to play our role internationally to move the world to higher levels of water security.

“Many of the nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure and systems have been operated for five or more decades. As pipes, pumps, and plants reach the end of their expected life lifespan, water infrastructure capital needs are growing rapidly, yet investment in water infrastructure is not keeping pace”, Minister Mokonyane said.

She said it could be argued that if the estimated investment gap was to be closed, it would result in billions of rands in total annual economic activity to the country, reiterating that these investments would generate and sustain substantial amounts of jobs over a period time.

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