



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Municipalities are encouraged to speedily pay the Department of Water and Sanitation**

08 September 2017

Some Eastern Cape municipalities owe the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) a huge amount estimated at R18 million for water services. The DWS implores municipalities to pay the outstanding arrears and review their tariffs to ensure that water and sanitation services are paid.

The DWS is encouraging communities to pay water rates, report water leakages and spillages in their areas. By paying services this will assist in the improvement of service delivery and to the maintenance of infrastructure.

According to the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, the War on Leaks programme is the department's flagship programme aimed at reducing water losses through repairs, retrofitting and replacements. The country loses seven billion rand (R7 billion) a year through unaccounted for water.

The DWS also advises municipalities to implement the War On Leaks (WOL) programme in order to deal with the water leakages in their jurisdictions and also to review their water operations. The WOL project will proactively minimize water losses in the country which are estimated to cost around R7 billion per annum.

The Department of Water and Sanitation encourages the Eastern Cape communities to continue saving water and use it wisely.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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