



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS to commemorate World Toilet Day

15 November 2018

The state of sanitation in the country will take centre stage when the Department of Water and Sanitation will join the rest of the world to commemorate World Toilet Day on Monday, 19 November 2018 under the theme “***When Nature Calls***”.

United Nations (UN) designated this day as World Toilet Day in 2013 to put on the spotlight sanitation issues and raise awareness about the importance of proper toilets in the globe. The World Health Organisation estimates people who still lack this basic facility at 4,5 billion the world over. It estimates those who practice open defecation at 892 million, putting the environment and hygiene at risk

World Toilet Day then becomes a day for respective countries across the globe to reflect on their progress or lack of it, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 6, which commits all the countries to ensure access to clean water and decent sanitation by 2030.

South Africa prides itself with milestones it has reached to eradicate bucket toilets in its efforts to restore dignity to the previously disadvantaged communities. This has been further applauded by African Ministers Council on Water who has urged the rest of the African continent to take a leaf out of South Africa’s book and improve their sanitation provisions.

The Department of Water and Sanitation, acknowledges that, bucket toilets have not been fully eradicated, but it is pleased that it is pleased that this will be done before the UN target of 2030

According to the General Household Survey released by Statistics South Africa in December 2017, South Africa had a backlog of 3.1% of bucket toilets. This is a considerable progress that has been made by government considering what it inherited from the erstwhile government.

South Africa is one of the very few countries in the continent with an existing Sanitation Policy (2016) that is used as a guide to improve sanitation services in the country.

The Department has developed a 10 Year National Sanitation Programme that seeks to eradicate both the water and sanitation backlogs. The programme will address infrastructure backlogs, infrastructure refurbishment, new connections for the unserved, introduce sustainable operations and maintenance for both rural and urban areas, commandeer bulk water and bulk sanitation supply.

Sanitation is far more than the mere construction of toilets, adding that proper services involve health and hygiene education to encourage and assist people to improve their health and quality of life.

The South African government is committed to provide 100% of its citizens with basic water and sanitation, and while it has reached its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for water, it is focusing on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, which includes providing sanitation infrastructure.



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A number of activities have been organized across the country to mark this day and beat the stigma associated with toilets.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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