



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Nkwinti to establish a water use licensing body and an Advisory Water Council

12 November 2018

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Gugile Nkwinti, is intent on the establishment of a Schedule 3 institution to accelerate the issuing of water use licenses to applicants as one critical outcome of the Ministerial Innovators Interactive Session hosted on Saturday, 10th November 2018.

“The delay of the issuing of the licenses to businesses, especially emerging farmers, can no longer be tolerated. Government should not be seen as a stumbling block to enthusiastic entrepreneurs who wish to contribute towards the country’s economic development”, Minister Nkwinti inferred.

Addressing about 400 delegates at the Ministerial Innovators Interactive Session in Boksburg at the weekend, Minister Nkwinti said the proposed licensing institution by his department should be established along the lines of the Evaluator-General in Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs, with the prerequisite skills and capacity.

“Tactics will be different yet the strategy will be the same”, Minister said.

Nkwinti also announced his intention to appoint of a Ministerial Advisory Council before the end of December 2018. The proposed council - to be drawn from water experts, water scientists and civil engineers - will advise him on matters related to the work of the Ministry and Department of Water and Sanitation.

“This matter of the department working in silo mode must come to an end. I want to remove all bureaucratic processes so that the department can deliver its mandate without any further delay”, Nkwinti said.

Themed “**Innovations today for tomorrow’s water and sanitation solutions**” the session brought together exhibitors, water scientists and experts from across the country, to showcase innovative solutions to challenges currently faced by the water and sanitation sector.

Professor Washington Nyabeze, a researcher and an academic, called on the department to speedily establish the rest of the catchment management agencies as was envisaged.

“Let’s implement the CMAs urgently to allow them to manage water issues in their own areas. This will go a long way towards accelerating water and sanitation delivery, and ease the backlog,” Nyabeze said

The Interactive Session brought forth a strong sense that the private sector has a huge interest in the business of the department, more especially with the support of an entrenched and well operating legislative regime.



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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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