



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Deputy Minister Mahlobo pushes for proper decisions to solve water challenges

26 July 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mr David Mahlobo, on Thursday, 25 July 2019, said South Africa could meet the goal of water security if proper decisions were taken at the right time.

Addressing the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) during the Budget and Policy Statement, Deputy Minister Mahlobo said water crises may arise if the right investments, innovations and management decisions are not made at the right time.

“This could see jobs and livelihoods being affected, taps running dry and diseases spreading unnecessarily,” said Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

He said the department is committed to building a water secure country in which every South African plays a role to ensure water security, adding that despite the scarcity of water in this country, there is an obligation to ensure that people always have enough water to meet their basic needs.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo added that with the growing population and the economy, the demand for water will continue to grow while noting that some of the new demands will be met by building new infrastructure.

He said: “We must start from the planning of our supplies and then move to the development and management of the water resource infrastructure for which South Africa is well respected throughout the world.”

Deputy Minister Mahlobo stressed the need to protect scarce resources from pollution and over-use, which he said can damage the environment on which people depend.

“South Africa’s world-class water resource planning has been neglected over the last few years due to focus on providing basic water supply to the people,” he said, adding that long range planning capabilities will be re-invigorated with technical skills already available within the sector.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo said information technological revolution can be used more efficiently for water management.

“Monitoring of water use and water pollution has to be intense, but it cannot only be limited to inspectors on the ground. Technological innovation can do much more to monitor and manage water quality in our rivers, wetlands and dams,” he said.

**END**

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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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