



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS in Gauteng kicks off the preparation into action for water and sanitation Operation Phakisa**

20 March 2019

The Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation geared itself up to infuse the spirit of Operation Phakisa into its National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP) when it held a provincial consultation in preparation for Operation Phakisa.

The provincial consultation, which took place on Wednesday, 20 March 2019, at the Roodeplaats Training Centre outside Pretoria, was held in a bid to make the NW&SMP and general the work of the Department an integral part of the Operation Phakisa

Operation Phakisa, which is driven from the President's Office, will provide a platform for all key stakeholders to commit to act together in a focused manner to achieve some breakthrough results in the implementation of key interventions and achievement of desired outcomes.

The NW&SMP is the brainchild of the DWS and is a call to action and to get the various stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector to move as a cohesive force. Concretely, the overarching of the plan is to rally all sector stakeholders in the country to work together to address the challenges that are facing it.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr Simon Maphangula, DWS's Director for Water Sector Support, welcomed the delegates and described this preparation session ... for the consultation workshop as an important step towards finding the necessary synergy between the NW&SMP and the Operation Phakisa.

Giving an overview of the NW&SMP, Mr Tendani Nditwani, said the alignment between the NW&SMP and Operation Phakisa sought to give effect to various initiatives and programmes that were pronounced in the 2019 State of the Nation Address.

Mr Nditwani mentioned 57 municipalities that were in need of being stabilised where over 10 000 municipal infrastructure projects were being implemented;, saying that the spirit of Thuma Mina pushed for Public-Private Growth initiatives to facilitate focused investment plans of leading companies across the different sectors of the economy.

Describing the importance of the Operation Phakisa and its linkages to NW&SMP, Mr Nditwani said the Operation Phakisa on water and sanitation would see sector partners agree to concrete actions, budgets and timeframes necessary to implement the NW&SMP and secure a water-secure country, adding that this would address issues of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

He said the Operation Phakisa is a Malaysian model which was used by the country to solve some of its pressing problems, including in the areas of agriculture, water and health.

"It's the intention of the Department to mobilise the sector to participate in the Operation Phakisa by 2019 and a planning period of six to eight weeks is anticipated for this exercise," said Mr Nditwani.



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The delegates raised a number of priority issues that must form part of the Operation Phakisa for the water and sanitation sector. These included, amongst others, strengthening funding for enforcement, involvement of communities, maintenance of infrastructure and monitoring and sharing of information, cooperative governance and job creation.

**Hosia Sithole**