



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Minister Gugile Nkwinti says collaborative efforts are needed to ensure transformation of the water sector**

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Water and Sanitation Minister Gugile Nkwinti has called on role players in the water sector to join forces with the department to lead transformation of the water sector.

Minister Nkwinti was speaking at a Ministerial Interactive Session on the Transformation of the Water Sector held on Friday, 15 February 2019 at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

Addressing more than 300 delegates in the water sector, Minister Nkwinti reiterated government's commitment for collaborative efforts to lead transformation, as the department prepares to launch the Phakisa Process for Water and Sanitation.

"As a department, we remain committed to actively interact, listen and share ideas on how to move the sector forward. I am here today to listen and see how, as a department, we can facilitate the transformation process," said Minister Nkwinti.

The interactive session was meant to provide progress on the current status of transformation in the sector, including what obstacles have impeded transformation to date, how they can be overcome; and create a common vision and approach to move forward transformation of the sector.

In addition, Deputy Director-General Trevor Balzer, responsible for Strategic and Emergency Projects, gave an overview of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, focusing on how the Master Plan can assist in addressing sector challenges and also the implementation of the Phakisa Process for Water and Sanitation.

"The Phakisa on Water and Sanitation will see sector partners agree on concrete actions, budgets and timeframes necessary to implement the Master Plan, and ensure a water-secure future for the country, while also addressing the triple challenges confronting the country, namely, poverty, unemployment and inequality," Balzer said.

Balzer said the Phakisa for Water and Sanitation is a game-changer for the department and the sector as a whole. He added that it is the intention of the department to mobilise the sector to undertake the implementation of Phakisa by March 2019.

Also in attendance were emerging farmers who asked the department to focus on a system of water licensing in order to fully transform the water sector.

"One of the many challenges I have as an emerging farmer is the lack of water infrastructure, which has, in many cases, pushed many of us to close shop. This is crippling for us as we are unable to continue with our production," said an emerging farmer, Nkosinathi Radebe from KwaZulu-Natal.

Adding to Radebe's remarks was Gugulethu Zondi who suggested that the department had to implement water allocations to farmers.





## water & sanitation

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“Drought has hit hard, especially in rural areas. We request that the department makes provision for the implementation of water allocation in rural areas,” said Zondi.

Deputy Minister Andries Nel of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), applauded Minister Nkwinti for initiating and leading the session with the water sector, and including COGTA, saying this was the right step to foster relations and build trust with sector leaders.

During his closing remarks, Minister Nkwinti said: “I am always receiving numerous requests to meet from different sector players and I took it upon myself to make an engagement like this happen. I chose not to meet individuals but rather to meet the sector collective. I really appreciate that all of us here were able to attend, and make valuable inputs to move the sector forward,” Minister Nkwinti said.

He assured delegates in attendance that all inputs were accepted and were to be taken into consideration by the department.

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