

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER MATHABATHA WELCOMES WATER AND SANITATION MINISTRY VISIT

Premier of Limpopo, Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha has welcomed the Minister of Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mr Senzo Mchunu's visit to Limpopo Province to intervene on issues of water provision. Premier Mathabatha was speaking at a stakeholders engagement session held today at Bolivia Lodge, Polokwane.

"Your visit here is welcomed; we are a rural province with huge water scarcity. We were at 84% in 2014 for provision and we are now down to 74% in 2019 which is a matter of serious concern. Our biggest problems are sources of water and reticulation which is due to capacity within municipalities", said Premier Mathabatha.

Premier Mathabatha said the visit will help tap on the capacity with reticulation in most of the water schemes the province has and added that Limpopo had signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with Matebeleland, Zimbabwe to avert the biggest risk of water shortage in the proposed Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. "We would like you to propel that matter from your end", said Premier.

"We wanted to introduce ourselves to the Premier and Limpopo Provincial Government and, secondly, assess the challenges that we have as DWS and see where we are able to intervene. We look at water services, resources and where we are in terms of provision. We shall be interacting with various stakeholders and the Premier was one of them we started with. They made a presentation and we have agreed on what the progress is and on common approach in tackling these matters", said Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu.

Minister Mchunu says that government has heard issues that communities are raising in particular shortage of waters across the Province. Addressing media briefing after engagement with stakeholders, he added that people are talking about their experiences and problems in accessing water. He emphasized that his department is attending to these matters daily basis.

The Minister's entourage will in the three days interact with Provincial Water and Sanitation Management and Water Services Authorities. They will visit Giyani

Bulk Water Project amongst others and continue with engagement of other stakeholders in Mopani District and Vhembe and Waterberg Districts.

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