

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, CLLR. MAHOLE S. MOFOKENG OF THE D. MINISTER REJOICE MABHUDHAFASI ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOUTHERN GAUTENG WATER WEEK 2014

03 APRIL 2014

- Programme Director: Cllr. Simon Maphalla,
- Honourable Deputy Minister of Water Affairs: Mme Rejoice Mabhudhafasi,
- Gauteng MEC for Water and Infrastructure support to Municipalities: Mme Ntombi Mekgwe,
- Acting Executive Mayor of the Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr.KhuluMalindi,
- Members of Mayoral Committees and fellow councillors present,
- Representatives from our Ward Committees,
- Representatives representing Water Agencies,
- Ladies and gentlemen,
- The people of Sedibeng.

Programme Director

It is my sincerest honour to stand before you today at this important Summit on water, our precious resource and what we refer to as life. I grew up knowing that water is life and we are today going to take this thinking forward.

Let me start by wishing the Rand Water family a very good and fruitful 110th anniversary. We believe that this milestone will empower you to work harder and smart in your responsibilities to providing clean water to the nation as you have been doing.

Just like as Nicholas Sparks once said and I quote: **“It is life, I think, to watch the water. A man can learn somanythings.”**

Indeed **“water is life as we celebrate 20 years of water delivery for social and economic development”**.

Elections

We meet here today just over a month before the 5th democratic elections which will be held on the 7th May 2014. A period which calls on all of us to take part in ensuring that we work together, do our part in taking our

Region and South Africa forward by among others, casting our votes on the 7th May 2014.

As part of our platform for the first multi-racial general election in South African history, the ANC-led government promised to ensure that all South Africans had permanent access to clean water by 2010. This promise continues to be implemented as we take South Africa forward.

Dear Members of the Ward Committees and fellow Councillors,

Ours today will be to share best ideas on how to save water and solicit support from all of you gathered here to work together with our municipalities throughout the District towards reduction of water losses we continue to experience.

During this Summit, we will further receive areas to use to benchmark with in our quest to saving and protecting water in our communities and industrial areas.

Programme Director,

We must emerge from this Summit with one common goal of working towards protecting and saving water through our interactions with our constituencies and various other stakeholders.

BolokaMetsi Project

Programme Director, we are going to receive a progress report on the BolokaMetsi Project. This is the Emfuleni Local Municipality's water loss reduction project aimed at ensuring that we collectively reduce water leakages and levels of wastage in the water distribution system.

Through this Summit, working together with you, we must continue to increase community awareness and improve water security in the Integrated Vaal River System.

Before the honourable Deputy Minister ascends the podium, please allow me to remark a bit on water.

Water and Legislation

Water is a strategic natural resource. This means that unlike any other natural resource such as gold, coal, oil and iron ore, water is not a stock, but rather a flux. The two fundamental elements of water, the fact that it is a flux and that it is fugitive in nature means that it is "special".

If managed correctly it can become a renewable resource.

As we move forward it is our responsibility to safe water. Since 1994 the entire water sector has benefited from a policy and legislative which addressed the severe inequities of the past and produced state-of-the-art water resources management.

Introducing The Deputy Minister

As I call the Honourable Deputy Minister, we should bear in mind that when South Africa emerged from decades of apartheid rule in 1994, there were great expectations from previously disadvantaged groups that the ruling African National Congress would immediately begin extending government services.

I believe your resolutions from this summit will by all means take us further beyond the 7th May general elections. Once again I welcome all of you.

I thank you.