



## MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

### Media Statement

**19 March 2019**

#### **DEPARTMENT SOLICIT INPUTS ON WATER AND SANITATION**

**Mahikeng** - Most municipalities in the North West province still make use of old and dilapidated infrastructure made of either asbestos or concrete pipes, do not have budgets for operations and maintenance of water infrastructure, no plans nor technical skills and make use of general workers for operation and maintenance of infrastructure.

MEC for Local Government and Human Settlements, Motlalepula Rosho said this at a breakfast meeting with academics from the North West University (NWU), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), officials from Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA), water utilities – Sedibeng Water and Magalies Water, amongst others.

“Most of the service delivery protests happen because as government, we do not respond to the concept that water is life. We therefore need to partner with academics, tertiary institutions and the private sector to respond to the water challenge in the province. We have not surpassed this challenge as yet and we need to put our minds together on how to channel all the resources that we have towards make sure that our communities have access to clean portable water and decent sanitation.

She said most municipalities still relied on tankering as a source of supply of water instead of investing on permanent solutions. “We need to revisit the funding model of bulk infrastructure especially in rural areas and involve traditional leadership”, she said.

She said the other challenges that worsen the water situation include rampant sewer spillage due to lack of proper maintenance, dilapidated infrastructure and limited funding. “There is a serious problem with regard to the supply of water and sanitation services in informal settlements due to lack of infrastructure”, she said.

The meeting was intended to solicit inputs for the department to develop the provincial water master plan, water conservation demand management, management of water resources and sustainable and water provision across sectors.

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