

## **Budget Speech Vote 36 on Water and Sanitation by Mr M. Johnson - Chairperson: Water and Sanitation**

20 May 2015

Comrades  
Colleagues  
Our Esteemed Guests  
Fellow South Africans

South Africa drinks from the tap!

I rise in support of more programmes, on behalf of the African National Congress, the People's Movement, in support of this Budget Vote 36 allocation to the Department of Water and Sanitation in order to create more opportunities for our People to drink more from the tap and provide more decent sanitation for our People.

We support this Budget Vote because, when the People of South Africa discovered that, as we conducted our very first Census in a Democracy in 1996, these revealed some 40% of South Africans, the majority being Black, in particular Africans, had access to safe drinking water, through their Movement, the ANC, we worked hard to be where we are today, to have achieved a 94%, way surpassing a UN MDG Target of 50% by 2015.

In the same period, the People of South Africa discovered that a mere 40% had decent sanitation in 1996, a lot of work had to be done to achieve a 78% by 2014, again, going beyond an expected 50% by the UN MDG Target.

As we support this Budget Vote Debate 36, we do so with humility.

Once again, we urge the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to do more with less.

Working together with other Departments you can do so much more when collaborating.

Fellow South Africans

Against this background, anyone in his/her right mind to object to such noble ideals must seriously interrogate his/her Party's intention and mission of advancing change in the lives of ordinary People of South Africa.

Colleagues

HE President JG Zuma, in his state of the nation address in February 2015 (SONA 2015), affirmed water as a critical resource for economic growth and a better life, in line with this assertion, the overall budget vote increased from R12 939.7 billion in 2014/15 to R16 446.5 billion in 2015/16 - this therefore reflects a real increase of more than 20 per cent.

Chairperson, this increase reflects the seriousness with which our ANC led Government accords to water and sanitation service delivery.

In order to further deliver water services to our People, we need an appropriate legislation that is in keeping with Section 27 (1) (b) of our Constitution of the Republic, effectively declaring water as a Human Right.

Fellow South Africans

Much as we drink from the tap and that we have made such significant strides in turning the tide, we remain with the challenges that impede our People from accessing water in some parts of South Africa and decent sanitation. These include lack of law enforcement for those that break the law by vandalising and stealing of copper from our infrastructure; alongside stealing of water by established businesses, delays in issuing water use licenses; poor implementation of the broader water resource policies; delays in investment in water infrastructure and maintenance of such; and the erosion of institutional memory in the water sector, along with the loss of experienced water engineers and scientists.

Director General

As we have seen a number of service delivery protests in the Country, it becomes critically important that your Department establishes visible Rapid Response Unit that responds and proactively deal with water and sanitation related challenges before they reach such protest stages.

Ordinary South Africans must be able to call a Toll Free number to report leakages, no water supplies and vandalism and theft of our infrastructure.

Minister and Deputy Minister,

I am pleased to learn that, through this Budget, a number of job opportunities will be created. To mention just a few, around 40 graduates from the Department's Learning Academy will be placed into Candidate Engineer positions in the medium term.

Colleagues, these Graduates are young people from rural areas who will be placed back into their respective municipalities to beef up the needy skills and Department's regional offices to speed up water services delivery to our People. In addition, there is lot more job opportunities that will be created through the Infrastructure Development Programme.

Compatriots

A conscious move to promote Black Industrialists through such Budgets must be part of our daily work exercise, both in the area of manufacturing of chemicals, of pipes and cement, among others.

Twenty One years since 1994, South Africa continues NOT to have a single Black chemical or pipe or cement manufacturer, as our infrastructure programmes demand of such products.

The Department has a duty, within this financial year to take cue from the SONA Address by the Commander in Chief JG Zuma in February 2015 that, "sets aside 30% of goods to be procured by Government must be through SMME's".

Together with the National Treasury and Trade and Industry, the DWS must collaboratively come up with a concrete resolution that changes the 90/10 supply chain split that typically favours price above all other variables.

This split continues to work against the very objects of our Radical Economic Transformation and it must change within this financial year.

Chairperson, this is a service delivery oriented Budget Vote!

Fellow South Africans, we are Africans first.

Our Committee is therefore delighted to see a number of international strategic partnerships that are established and others to be established, and to some extent maintained through this Budget Vote. These strategic partnerships are very important to our Republic since we heavily rely on trans-boundary waters or shared water courses such as the Limpopo River shared with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique; Inkomati River shared with Swaziland and Mozambique; Orange-Senqu River shared with Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia and Maputo-Usuthu Pongola River shared with Swaziland and Mozambique.

These partnerships will ensure that our water supply is secure and our economic development is sustainable.

Compatriots

In order to deliver water to the People, Industries and Businesses - we need appropriate infrastructure that is in good working condition. #This infrastructure includes dams, pipelines, power lines and pumps.

In 2012, the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) produced a ground-breaking National Infrastructure Plan (NIP), which amongst others contains a list of Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIP). Amongst these SIPs, is the SIP 18 and 6 that deal with Water and Sanitation Infrastructure backlog. For this to happen, an estimated Budget of R870 Billion has to be rallied between Public and Private Sectors to cover backlogs in Water alone over the next 10 years.

It becomes critical therefore that we track our existing infrastructure and be able to cost it for what it is worth in today's value.

Chairperson,

It is common knowledge that water is life - sanitation is dignity.

We are delighted to learn that 88 000 bucket systems will be eradicated in the formal dwellings in the financial year we are upon, 2015/16.

In addition, 11 960 inhumane sanitation systems will be replaced with decent sanitation in 26 000 rural households.

Give credit where credit is due - asinamona, asinandzondo and asinachuku - sidumisa nje igama lika Khongolose nemisebenzi yakhe emihle!

Chairperson,

Allow me to again refer to SONA 2015 wherein HE President Zuma urged all in the country to conserve water because the country is losing almost R7 billion per year due to water losses. ##Budget Vote 36 indicates that the Department of Water and Sanitation will train a number of artisans or plumbers who will fix the leaking taps in their respective communities in the medium term Budget Framework. These artisans will also participate in the Department's War on Leak initiative. In addition, Chairperson a number of job opportunities will be created.

Notwithstanding the radical and progressive nature of this Budget Vote, there are a number of

challenges that should be addressed in order to effectively deliver the mandate of this Budget Vote.

Director General,

To mention one amongst others is the insufficient funding for various programmes, for example the Learning Academy could produce more students given an additional funding.

As the Committee, we therefore support any initiative that is geared towards improving the funding for this Budget Vote.

Doing more with less is the way to go DG! Creation of economies of scale will take us further, given a bringing together of your SAAWU Academy Initiative, now operated by Rand Water Board, together with Energy and Water SETA, Water Research Commission and other Institutions both Public (Academic) and Private.

Chairperson, I therefore conclude that Budget Vote 36 is progressively linked to targets set out in the State of the Nation Address 2015 (SONA); the National Development Plan 2030 (Vision 2030), Annual Performance Plan 2014/15 - 2016/17 (APP), Strategic Plan 2014/15 - 2016/17 and the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2014-2019 of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Fellow South Africans, I wouldn't have done my entire job if I had not told the truths as they are in this august house.

In opposing such progressive Budgets, some of us, Friends of the Natives continue with the work started by predecessors of Judge Leon, father of the father of DA, who not only judged over the ultimate hanging of Solomon Mahlangu in 1979. As if this was enough, Andrew Zondo was next in 1986. Such crimes have never been accounted for in our Democracy, let alone the drugs found in the Church of Pastor Honourable Maimane.

Lastly, an organisation of Young People masquerading as radical left, knowing fully well that they are moving in the right wing direction in theory and in action, with only throwing of jargons that are meaningless, thinking that the Youth shall follow all those red regalias stolen from the real Reds, the Communists.

I have a message for you, they started in 1959 and used Congress before PA, today they are only followed by a voting populace that gives them only 2 representatives. Congress belongs to the Congress Movement.

Then came A Democratic Movement with a U, more and more, they are fast disappearing from the political landscape. Again, the Democratic Movement belongs to the Democratic Movement.

The turn for COP with an E came with a big bang of 31 members, now reduced to 3. There continues to be ONE Congress of the People, which the ANC is celebrating its 60 years this year at Kliptown, its birth place, NOT in Sandton.

As youngsters, you have a lot to learn. Start by going to the Parents of a young lady that was raped in Bloemfontein by one of your sitting MP's last year in July as you were celebrating your one year in existence, and say sorry, even though the young lady has mysteriously died of a car crash. Then, you shall be on course in getting to know that you are here dealing with a 103 grand Father who has experience and wisdom.

I THANK YOU

