

## Water and Sanitation in the News

### **Tech transfer key to Africa's water and sanitation**

Africa's water and sewerage utilities are not coping with the ever-increasing demand and the adoption of appropriate technologies is an opportunity to reverse this situation. It is with this in mind that the African Development Bank is making an effort to increase the transfer of technologies and skills to the African continent.

The Bank's participation at the recent World Water Tech Investment Summit in London from March focused on promoting opportunities in the African market and tangible actions to accelerate the uptake of advanced technologies in water and sanitation for more sustainable services. ...AfDB stressed the need for technologies and solutions that respond to the needs of the African utilities. The greatest immediate needs are in the areas of water loss reduction and energy efficiency...

Source: [Infrastructurenews.com](http://Infrastructurenews.com), 18 March 2015

### **Context**

The investment in technologies that could be adopted by drinking and waste water treatment plants in South Africa is becoming increasingly important in ensuring sustainable delivery of services – which are, ultimately, critical to the overall well-being of the country. Aside from the serious public health implications of failure to deliver services such as water and sanitation, there are also enormous economic implications to consider if sufficient water sector interventions (including the uptake of technologies) are not urgently performed across the country.

The direct economic impact of the current water supply infrastructure crisis in South Africa is well-publicised in the media, particularly as taken from Government statements. For instance, this week the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation (while commemorating National Water Week) noted that it remains concerned that the country is faced with water related losses in excess of seven billion rand a year. This money could be used to ensure that all South Africans get access to clean running water, which is a constitutional right...

Also, in a written Parliamentary response Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane stated that her Department plans to spend R1.6-billion in the 2014/15 fiscal

period on the upgrade of dilapidated water infrastructure across South Africa. Cabinet had set a target of providing "90% reliable" water services by 2019...

Besides direct economic implications of a failing water sector, there are also significant indirect economic impacts. On Wednesday, the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) warned that an increase in the number of protest actions taking place in the country will hamper investment. This came after a series of protests over poor service delivery had swept parts of the country. In the latest protests, sparked by a shortage of water due to infrastructure failure, hundreds of residents in the townships of Letlhabile, Jericho, Damonsville and Maboloka near Brits, barricaded roads and disrupted schooling and public transport amid a heavy police presence...

Sources: [allAfrica.com](http://allAfrica.com), 16 March 2015 ; [News24](http://News24.com), 18 March 2015 ; [Global Times](http://GlobalTimes.com), 18 March 2015 ; [Engineering News](http://EngineeringNews.com), 18 March 2015

In order to help achieve government targets of 90% reliable water services by 2019, the implementation of engineering technologies and systems are absolutely crucial. Considering the context outlined above, such technologies could result in significant economic benefits for the country, as it could provide much needed support in achieving effective treatment and supply of water and sanitation services – which improves the availability of community water and sanitation – and thereby helps to prevent costly water losses, asset failures and violent service delivery protests.



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