

R900 billion needed for water security in next 10 years

AN estimated R900 billion will be required to ensure the country's water security for the next 10 years and beyond.

Addressing Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille, mayors as well as various stakeholders in the agriculture, farming and water sector, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said the plan outlined a series of urgent

steps to be taken. In collaboration with National Treasury, Sisulu said, the financial position of the department was being regularised so that the focus would be squarely on water security.

She added while there was no stable cost budget for the plan, the department would work with the resources given to it by the Treasury and investments from

the private sector. "We costed actions that are possible within our budget," Sisulu said.

According to the 68-page master plan document, the department has R567 billion available, leaving a shortfall of R333 billion. Sisulu added while the Auditor-General had declared the department bankrupt, it now needed to review its proc-

esses and carry out its work differently to account correctly.

Critical to the plan are infrastructure investment and maintenance, capacity of municipalities, transformation in the sector, licensing of water use, as well as the capacity of the department and its agencies to ensure that communities and businesses have water security. — News24.