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“People must have water,” says Minister Mchunu

By Musa Mnyandu

Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu, who is also a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC, is adamant that the water challenges currently facing Ilembe District have a far greater impact on rural communities.

Minister Mchunu was speaking at the Ilembe Water Summit hosted by the ANC in the General Gizenga Mpanza Region (GGMR), at KwaDukuza Town Hall, recently.

Amongst the dignitaries who attended the summit was Minister Mchunu, Deputy Minister of Finance Dr David Masedo, Public Works Minister Senzo Mchunu, ANC KZN Deputy Chairperson and Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane, Ilembe Mayor Thobani Shandu, KwaDukuza Mayor Lindile Nhaca, as well as the ANC's regional leadership led by Chairperson Yusi Mihethwa, Deputy Chairperson Bheka Dlamini, Secretary Siphesihle Zulu and Deputy Secretary Matozi Khuzwayo-Dlamini.

Delving into the problems facing Ilembe District, Minister Mchunu stressed the need for people to have access to water. He said people in rural areas were the worst affected by water supply challenges, as they did yet not have yard connections.

“The bottom line is that people must have water, in their homes. If not, in their area next to where they live, if they are not yet at the stage where water is connected to each yard. It's painful to say this because people in urban areas are connected in their homes, (whereas) people who come from rural areas are not even connected to their yards. They are still not regarded as requiring water in their yards. They are subjected to the use of communal taps, which is painful, and needs to be done away with as quickly as possible,” stated Minister Mchunu.

The Minister urged ward



Seen at the Water Summit hosted by the ANC at KwaDukuza Town Hall are (L to R) Deputy Finance Minister David Masedo, Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu, ANC Deputy Regional Secretary Matozi Khuzwayo-Dlamini, ANC KZN Deputy Chairperson Nomagugu Simelane, ANC Deputy Regional Secretary Siphesihle Zulu and ANC Regional Deputy Chairperson Bheka Dlamini. Photo: Musa Mnyandu

councillors to stay updated with water related issues so that they can relay information to their constituencies in cases of water outages.

“In January (2024) we will establish a national operations centre so that if there are problems of water supply on a prolonged basis, we are able to coordinate at a national level,” Mchunu said.

Deputy Minister Masedo indicated that the District Municipality needed to be assisted to seek alternative sources of funding for water and sanitation infrastructure, in the face of dwindling grants from national government. Masedo said the municipality needed a staggering R8 billion in order to address infrastructure backlogs within Ilembe District.

“If we are to rely on the national allocation it will take us 15 years (to address infrastructure challenges). We need to find other ways to source funding so that we don't (have to)

wait 15 years to deal with the infrastructure backlog that we have in the (KZN) province.

Nomagugu Simelane emphasized that implementable solutions were

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