



**MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
DR NOBUHLE NKABANE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE BOKAMOSO
WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT: MOOINOOI SOCIAL &
LABOUR PLAN PROJECT 2010 – 2014
15TH OCTOBER 2022

- Programme Director, Mr Jomo Kwadi (who is also the Head of Corporate Affairs and Transformation at Samancor Chrome),
- Pastor D. Mosolodi,
- Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Senzo Mchunu,
- Premier of the province, Hon K.B Maape,
- North West MEC for COGTA, Ms L. Miga
- Executive Mayor of Bojanala District Municipality, Cllr M. Nondzaba
- Madibeng Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr D. Maimane
- Samancor Chrome Chief Executive Officer, Mr D. MacManus, along with his executive and team
- Team DMRE, led by DDG Maqubela and DDG Malebe,
- Government departments present,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is on such occasions that we recall the importance of the Freedom Charter Declaration in 1955 which stated that all minerals beneath the soil shall belong to the people as a whole! As you know, this was further engraved in the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act 2002 (MPRDA 2002). The Social and Labour Plan, in particular, is part of the MPRDA stipulations as a precondition for issuing mining licenses, which is also enshrined in the Mining Charter.

I therefore take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to be afforded this opportunity to witness this very important development which will go a long way in helping the local community to access clean portable water, which is a basic human right for all.

Many will recall that mining has historically been the bedrock of the South African economy, even though pre-1994 this was selectively focussed on some communities based on race, gender and class.

The Constitution of our country enjoins us to embark on various social, economic and political endeavours, to heal these historic divisions. Today I take this opportunity to re-emphasise that, unless we heal these divisions of the past, our own lofty constitutional project will fail as the integrity of our democracy will be inevitably undermined!

Therefore, as we gather here today, it should be borne in mind that we are not only bringing water to a community that needs such as basic commodity, but we are also strengthening our democracy.

Democracy means nothing without concomitant material benefit as Amilcar Cabral succinctly put it:

“Always bear in mind that people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.”

As many of you will know, the community outside of Mooinooi, North West, known as Bokamoso or Mamba, have been formalized and proclaimed as Mooinooi Extension 13 as part of the municipal demarcation. Access to water here has been a serious challenge and so has been absence of appropriate sanitation facilities.

It is heartening that after the realisation that the Rand Water supply to Rustenburg and Sibanye Mine could not feed communities beyond that, SAMANCOR did not fold their arms and declared water as merely unavailable and a problem that cannot be solved, but instead literally and figuratively dug into their imaginations as they drilled into the depth of the landscape to find water for our people.

This project is therefore testament that with full determination, nothing is impossible, and that innovation is the key to development!

I hope the youth are learning on what it takes to solve community challenges, and that it is not only resources but ingenuity and determination.

When we speak investment, we speak of money following grand and practicable ideas. It is precisely why we instituted the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), because we believe that as government we must play our part by providing resources whilst what we ask of our youth is their genius to implement practicable business projects.

Today we are here to provide water and sanitation but these are just basic infrastructure to enable economic development that can sustain livelihoods.

I have reliably been informed that this project when completed would ensure that over 1000 households in the Bokamoso Settlement have access to clean water and improved sanitation. Consequently, a 2 million litre reservoir was constructed and is fed by 6 boreholes and supported by an appropriate water treatment plant.

The project cost over R32 million with a total of 114 employees that benefitted from jobs created, and 32 of those being female employees and 90 of them from the Bokamoso community.

Rustenburg is said to be the fastest growing city in the country, and we understand why it is gulping the bulk water from Rand Water. This is owing to its bustling mining activities. Early this year we convened a Mining Investment Conference in this province. Not long from now we will be back here in this province because we believe the North West is part of the three provinces, together with Limpopo and **Northern Cape, that must constitute what we call South Africa's mining belt.**

Therefore, we are acutely aware that water will be an important but scarce commodity for both community and industrial use. This is why today we are here to applaud the reliance of SAMANCOR towards finding water and sanitation solutions that will ensure the success of our socio-economic programmes. This successful drilling for water demonstrates without doubt that we will literally and figuratively leave no stone unturned to find such solutions!

I trust with this kind of cooperation we will continue to foster Public Private Partnerships in the development of our communities.

I thank you!