



SPEECH BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

ESWATINI WATER SERVICES CORPORATION

MRS JABULILE MASHWAMA

**LAUNCH OF NANSÓYAKHO WATER
CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN**

20 MARCH 2019

HEADQUATERS, EZULWINI

Senior Government Officials

Executives from companies and institutions

EWSC Executive and all Employees

Members of the Media

Good Afternoon,

- Colleagues, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us as we launch Nansóyakho Water Conservation Campaign.
- The PAM has already articulated the aims of this campaign and so ably explained why we have opted to call it Nansoyakho, I hope it now resonates with all of you as the partners we have identified as key in ensuring this campaign goes viral and yields the desired effects for our beautiful country
- My remarks will be brief as I believe I am preaching to the converted:
- Fresh, clean water is a limited resource. Occurrences such as droughts further limit access to clean and fresh water, meaning we need to take steps to reduce water use and save as much water as possible. The UN SDGS, in particular Goal no 6 calls for clean water and sanitation for all people, the exact wording of the goal say: 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'. Therefore we as water users have no choice but to develop programs that will ensure we adhere we meet these goas that we signed up to as a nation. This campaign is but one attempt towards that end.
- EWSC believes that as people who have access to fresh water, we can take steps to limit our use of water to avoid waste thereby expanding access to the population of Eswatini. Sharing is caring

- Eswatini has had serious drought occurrences over the years which have had very devastating effects socio-economic effects on the population. Currently, the average rainfall in the country is about 788 mm per annum ranging from as low as 500 mm in the dry Low-veld region to 1,500 mm in the wet and cooler High-veld region.
- The high natural variability of rainfall and river flows means that water availability is low and has to be enhanced through measures such as the construction of large dams and other water harvesting initiatives. Colleagues the cost of these interventions is very high, Eswatini has not been in a position to develop her river basins to their full potential; hence water scarcity remains a serious challenge.
- We therefore should do our best to conserve little water that we have access to. Firstly, conserving water will allow us to plan for more efficient use of the water resources now and in the future. If most of our clean water is wasted, there will not be water for future generations to use, meaning we will need to come up with new ways to produce clean, fresh water, which will ultimately be at the taxpayers' expense.
- Secondly, water conservation reduces energy use and thereby increases disposable income for households and improves the general economic climate of the nation. The less water a household uses, the less they have to pay for it on a monthly basis.
- The less water used or wasted by people, the less the clean naturally occurring water will become contaminated and hence the better conserved our environment is. In some cases, using excess amounts of water puts a strain on septic and sewage systems, leading to contamination of

groundwater, as untreated, dirty water seeps from the sewage system into the ground.

- Through the Nansoyakho Campaign we are presenting a fun, eye-catching campaign highlighting the simple things that people can do in and around their homes to reduce daily water consumption. We are encouraging people to do their part without feeling it is too little to make a difference. The emphasis is stewardship, not hardship.
- It is important to highlight that this is not just an EWSC Campaign but it 'OUR' campaign. If you are in this room then it is yours to own, to customize and to push in your organization, community and in your household. After all, this is your water too. The Corporation believes that there is value in growing partnerships in the campaign. This will ensure that we all promote one consistent message.
- An important element of the campaign seeks to address advocacy issues. It is imperative that water issues and interventions remain high on the government agenda. The campaign seeks to ensure that water security issues do not fall off the radar. Raw water storage is an immediate need and we appreciate Government efforts at addressing this.
- In conclusion, The Hon Minister of Natural resources and Energy will be leading the World Water day celebrations later in the week, which have been so appropriately dubbed 'leaving no one behind', we as EWSC do not want to leave you our partners behind in this drive, and thank you for joining
- Let us all know that we are water saving device number 1. And we all have a role to play.

- As parents, let us educate our children about water conservation. For example, let us avoid buying recreational water toys.
- Every employee should be active in water conservation at the work place and encourage their employer to promote water conservation in other effective ways.
- Water conservation methods should be promoted on every news media and social media platforms.
- Let us all be more active in reporting water loss through pipe bursts and leaks. **8005000**
- Water conservation should be highly promoted in the schools. We are looking forward to partnerships that would involve students being assigned to prepare projects on water conservation or given this topic during any competition, debate, discussion, essay writing or speech recitation.
- From what we in this room have learnt today, let us encourage our friends and neighbours to join this water conscious movement.
- I challenge you to be conscious of your relationship with water. At the end of each day, ask yourself what you have done to save water.
- I thank you.