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TO ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS

MEDIA ADVISORY | 23 JUNE 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MINISTER BUTHELEZI TO LEAD AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY
COMMEMORATION IN STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND
PARTNERSHIPS TO SECURE WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL BY
2030.**

Pretoria, South Africa, June 2026 - The Minister for the Public Service and Administration, HON. INKOSI MZAMO BUTHELEZI, MP, will join the continent in commemorating AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY (APSD) 2026 under the African Union theme:

"ENHANCING PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL WATER AVAILABILITY AND SAFE SANITATION BY 2063."

Africa Public Service Day provides an opportunity to recognise the critical role and the dedication of public servants across the continent in driving sustainable development, improving service delivery and advancing the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision of a prosperous and inclusive continent and to reflect on the critical role of a capable, ethical and developmental public service in improving the lives of citizens.

Minister Buthelezi welcomes the African Union's focus on water and sanitation, noting that access to clean water and safe sanitation remains one of the most pressing developmental challenges facing many communities across South Africa and the continent.

While acknowledging the progress made through various government programmes and partnerships, the Minister emphasises that commemorative days must serve a purpose beyond celebration.

"The true measure of our success as a public service is not found in conferences, speeches or commemorative events, but in the lived experiences of our people. Communities must see real improvements in access to clean water and dignified sanitation. If citizens continue to experience water shortages, failing infrastructure and inadequate sanitation services, then we must confront these challenges with urgency and honesty," said Minister Buthelezi.

The Minister will use the occasion to highlight the ongoing challenges experienced by citizens, including water supply interruptions, ageing infrastructure, service delivery backlogs, water losses, and the need for stronger governance and accountability across the water and sanitation value chain.

The commemoration will also serve as a call to action for all spheres of government, municipalities, water boards, public entities, civil society and the private sector to strengthen collaboration and accelerate interventions aimed at ensuring reliable water and sanitation services for all.

Minister Buthelezi will further emphasise that achieving the aspirations of **AGENDA 2063** requires responsive institutions, accountable leadership and a collective commitment to delivering quality services that improve the dignity and wellbeing of all South Africans.

Africa Public Service Day 2026 therefore presents an opportunity not only to celebrate the contributions of public servants, but also to reflect on the work that remains to be done to ensure that every citizen enjoys access to basic services and a better quality of life.

The programme will feature keynote presentations, expert discussions, stakeholder engagements and knowledge sharing sessions within the water and sanitation sector.

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: 26 June 2026

TIME: 09:00 AM

THEME: Enhancing Public Sector Institutions and Empowering Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve Universal Water Availability and Safe Sanitation by 2063

HOST: Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)

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Department of Public Service and Administration

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