



**REMARKS FOR THE MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION, MR SENZO MCHUNU
AT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING THE SOD-TURNING EVENT OF
THE ROOIWAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND PACKAGE PLANT
PROJECTS IN HAMMANSKRAAL ON 10 APRIL 2024**

SALUTATIONS AND INTRODUCTION

Good morning to the:

Deputy Ministers, David Mahlobo and Judith Tshabalala,

Premier of Gauteng, Mr Lesufi,

Mayor of Tshwane, Cllr Cilliers Brink,

Chairperson of Magalies Water, Dr Keneilwe Sebege and Board Members present,

Director-General of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Dr Sean Phillips,

City Manager from Tshwane, Mr Johann Mettler,

Chief Executive of Magalies Water, Mr Sandile Mkhize,

MMCs present,

Senior Managers from the Department,

Officials from all spheres of government,

Members of the media,

Residents of Temba,

Dumelang.

1. **Thank you for availing yourselves today**, your attendance is greatly appreciated. **Today marks a considerable milestone in our commitment** to improving water and sanitation services in Hammanskraal.
2. **Our first working visit to Hammanskraal was on the 29th of October 2021**, shortly after we assumed Office. During the community engagement then, **we acknowledged our short comings as government**, and **undertook to work together with the City of Tshwane**, in its capacity as a Water Services Authority, to ensure that the residents of Hammanskraal receive clean, consistent water.
3. The **quality of the water** that is consumed by the people of Hammanskraal, has **always posed a challenge, dating back to 2004**. We were also here in **June 2023** with the President, **following the regrettable cholera outbreak**, which claimed a



number of lives and again there, **we reiterated our commitment to providing residents of Hammanskraal with safe, clean drinking water.**

4. Our **mantra** as the Department of Water and Sanitation goes: *“Water is Life. Sanitation is Dignity”*. **Water is a basic right, along with a healthy environment and seemingly, where it concerns Hammanskraal, government has been depriving residents of these basic rights.**

OUTLINE OF THE TWO PROJECTS

5. As a Ministry, we **made an undertaking, and today, we are here to break ground** on the **refurbishment of the Rooiwal wastewater treatment plant** and the **upgrading of the Klipdrift Water Treatment Works**. These **projects are essential to address the challenges we have faced, largely due to the pollution of water resources and insufficient maintenance budget allocation resulting in maintenance backlogs.**
6. We **started our day with a site inspection of the Rooiwal wastewater treatment plant** to ensure that work is indeed underway. We **thereafter proceeded to the Klipdrift Water Treatment Works to turn the sod**, marking the commencement of work.
7. The **refurbishing of the Rooiwal wastewater plant will comprise of two sub-phases**, with the **Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) as the Implementing Agent**. **Phase 1A of the refurbishment is urgent, and we have opted for a turnkey approach to ensure that the necessary works are carried out swiftly and efficiently; this includes both general building and mechanical & electrical elements, that will work together to deliver the upgrades needed to improve the plant's capacity and functionality.**
8. **Phase 1B will follow a conventional approach**, which will attend to the **construction of two primary sedimentation tank, refurbishment of the East flow balancing tank and pump station and upgrading of the anaerobic digesters** on the Rooiwal West Works – to name a few. **The City of Tshwane has allocated a budget of R**



150 000 000.00. The **DBSA, as the Implementing Agent will push the service providers to expedite construction upon appointment, to ensure that they stick to the project timelines and spend the allocated budget.**

9. **Additionally, the construction of the Klipdrift Water Treatment Works is vital to increasing water supply. This upgraded plant will increase water supply from 42 to 92 mega litres per day (that is an additional 50MI/day), significantly improving the quality of life for the 47 550 households that will benefit. The overall estimate for the project is R 944 million.**
10. The project is divided into three work packages:

WORK PACKAGE 1

- Design, manufacture, supply, assemble, construct and commission all equipment required for a 50 MLD potable water treatment plant
- Package plant will purify 50 ML per day (SANS 241 water)
 - 12,5 ML available September 2024
 - 25 ML available November 2024
 - 37,5 ML available January 2025
 - 50 ML available March 2025
 - End of trial operation June 2025

WORK PACKAGE 2

- Increase raw water river abstraction
- New clean water reservoir & pump station
- New sludge handling facilities
- New raw and clean water pipelines



WORK PACKAGE 3

- Babelégi Site Upgrades
 - Security
 - Pipework and new connection chambers
 - Pump station upgrades
 - Connection to existing CoT pipeline
- Testing and commissioning of CoT pipelines
- Connection to Temba WTW clean water reservoir

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Klipdrift WTW Site
 - Pre-Treatment facilities

PROJECT STATUSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

11. In terms of the **project status of the three work packages: (Work Package 1)** As mentioned, the **contractor (Pro-Plan Consulting Engineers)** has been appointed, **are already working and have a 12-month construction period ending March 2025, followed by a 3-month trial operation period end June 2025.**
12. In terms of **Work packages 2 and 3, the tenders are still at evaluation stage, with appointments expected by end April 2024** followed by an estimated 12 – month construction period. **So, ladies and gentlemen, based on what I have just outlined, work is underway,** there are timelines to these projects which we will ensure are adhered to. **Understand us to be saying: we are hard at work and are committed to ensuring that the residents of Hammanskraal have clean, safe drinking water.**
13. **We always strive to ensure that projects undertaken by government benefit the local communities,** in terms of **employment as well as economic opportunities.** It is anticipated that the **upgrading of the Klipdrift water treatment plant project will create about 70 jobs in three wards; 30% local sub-contracting will be implemented, where feasible,** and that will comprise excavation of trenches, chamber construction, earthworks, welding and pipework, formwork, concrete work, security services, building material procurement and plant rentals, **with an estimated value of R 40 million.** We plead with local businesses to ensure that they submit the



required documents when called to do so, and to ensure that they deliver the products and services once appointed.

CORRECTING THE NARRATIVE, POLITICISING OF WATER AND CONCLUSION

14. Now, **there is just one narrative that I would like to correct: it is not correct that Hammanskraal, as a whole, has no water. There are certain parts of Hammanskraal serviced by Magalies Water – those parts have been receiving a reliable supply of clean water. The parts of Hammanskraal that have not been receiving water, or those that have been receiving discoloured, unsafe water are serviced by the City of Tshwane. It took a change in Tshwane leadership along with political will on the City’s side for us to get to where we are today. The current Mayor has come on board and is working with us to ensure that these projects are successful.**

15. **Water is a very sensitive and emotional topic. There was a recent article in News24, with the heading: “You’ll have no water if you don’t vote DA”. It is unfortunate that some individuals are using the delivery of water services as a campaigning tool, spreading fear that communities will not receive water if they do not vote for them. This is unacceptable, and we condemn such actions. Water is a basic human right, and it should never be politicised.**

16. **We must also remember the importance of working together to prevent the reoccurrence of waterborne diseases. While there was no evidence linking the cholera outbreak to water supply, we must remain vigilant and continue to improve our water and sanitation infrastructure to protect public health.**

17. **In conclusion, these projects demonstrate our commitment to providing reliable and safe water and sanitation services to our community. I thank all those involved in making these projects a reality, and I urge everyone to continue working together towards a healthier and more sustainable future for all.**

Thank you.