



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Water and Sanitation Forum established to discuss water issues**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation together with Amathole District Municipality conducted a capacitation building session for the Elliotdale Water and Sanitation Forum at Elliotdale recently. The two day session focused on empowering and orientating forum members on the two implemented water supply schemes at Mncwasa and Xhora villages in Elliotdale.

The establishment of these Forums in Elliotdale will open communication lines between the members of the community and government to tackle service delivery issues. According to Chief Development Expert, Ms Ntsebeng Monggae the role of the Water and Sanitation Forum is to assist the communities in terms of reporting water and sanitation challenges. In addition, she said Water and Sanitation Forums are meant to ensure that issues pertaining to service delivery, particularly in the water and sanitation sector are dealt with much quicker and effectively.

Chairperson of Elliotdale Forum Wilson Bhenyana indicated that they have serious challenges with communication and the establishment of these forums has come at the right time when they really needed them.

“We welcome the establishment of water schemes which we believe will supply many communities of Elliotdale, although the dam for Xhora scheme is still under construction but we are hoping that by 2018 the dam will be finished so that everyone benefits. The Mncwasa Dam is supplying three big wards now and communities are drinking clean water in these wards”, concluded Bhenyana.

Amathole District Municipality Balfour explained to the forum that these schemes are new and are established to change lives of Elliotdale communities. He said the forum must have monthly meetings to discuss water issues and report those challenges to the relevant offices including Department of Water and Sanitation.

The members of the forum were allowed to visit sites to see the progress of the project. The forum consists of ordinary members of the public, representatives from civil society and traditional leaders.

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