



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Nkwinti and Sebokeng residents find common ground on Sedibeng Regional Sanitation Scheme

19 July 2018

A group of unemployed Sebokeng residents who are eager to find work in the upgrading of the Sedibeng Regional Sanitation Scheme were surprised when the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, unexpectedly visited the site on 18 July 2018.

Minister Nkwinti was accompanied by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC, Uhuru Moiloa, Board Chairperson of Rand Water Advocate Tshidi Hashatse and Chief Executive Mr Percy Schemane and DWS's Acting Director General Ms Deborah Mochotlhi and Gauteng Head Mr Sibusiso Mthembu.

The residents, who were outside the site when Minister Nkwinti arrived, said they were seeking job opportunities and had done so for some time. They expressed dissatisfaction about promises of employment that they had been getting, saying these promises have not been fulfilled.

Upon the completion of the inspection of the site, Minister Nkwinti met with the residents and urged them to voice whatever challenges they were facing concerning the work that was taking place at the site.

One of the burning issues raised by different residents was that of employment of the same people at the project, effectively barring others from enjoying the benefits of the project. Other matters of concern raised were about the shifting dates on when they were going to start work so they can support their families.

One resident told the minister: "We have been promised employment but the dates on when we are supposed to start keep on changing. This makes us to lose hope and trust in our government."

Responding to the community's concerns, Minister Nkwinti thanked the residents for voicing out their concerns about the project without resorting to violence as destruction of property could have adverse consequences.

"I wish to thank you very much for expressing your concerns in a manner that does not seek to destroy what we have here. In a lot of instances when people express their dissatisfaction it is almost certain that it is accompanied by destruction and violence," said Minister Nkwinti.

He told residents that the project was one of his priorities and that this would be reflected in the revised budget that he was working on, reiterating that the completion of the project formed part of his plans.

Minister Nkwinti said his Department was working closely with National Treasury to resolve all issues of delays in projects and that finance was the main issue that he was focussing on. He set himself a deadline of August this year to come back to the residents to report developments which seek to address their challenges.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

“It is very important that we resolve the challenges that are facing you because this affects the progress of the project. The success of this project will have many spin offs for this areas and beyond. Investment is critical for the development of this area and you cannot call investors to come here when there is no progress. So, it is important that we resolve whatever challenges we have together,” said Mr Nkwinti, appealing to the residents to commit themselves to constructive engagement.

The project is aimed at addressed aging infrastructure, sewage spillage into the Vaal River and the demand that exceeds the design capacity of the wastewater treatment capacity in the Sedibeng Region.

Hosia Sithole