



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Ministry of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation interacts with communities of Sekhukhune District**

19 April 2021

The Ministry of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation has kick-started a stakeholder and community engagement that will provide a platform for discussions on human settlements, water and sanitation challenges at various District Municipalities in South Africa.

The engagements will also inform stakeholders on the successes, achievements and challenges (both legacy and non-legacy challenges) that face South Africans on human settlements, water and sanitation.

Limpopo Province piloted the stakeholder engagements to interrogate water and sanitation, human settlement projects in Sekhukhune, Mopani and Vhembe District Municipalities to check on progress and challenges regarding implementation. The engagements will also interrogate priority actions according to the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan launched by Minister Sisulu in 2019, to ensure that there is water security and equitable access to water and sanitation within the province. They will also ensure alignment to the Departments of Human Settlements' SMTSF targets and the National Development Plan.

Officials from both the national Departments of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation together with their counterparts from the provincial and local governments engaged with stakeholders and community forums members at Ephraim Mogale Municipality under Sekhukhune District Municipality.

Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality with a population of 127 168, has two water treatment works with total capacity producing 13 megalitres per day (13 MI/d) of water supply. The bulk water supply is augmented by 47 boreholes, with 13 that are functional and 34 not operational due to mechanical problems, theft and vandalism of equipment. The municipality also hosts Flag Boshielo Water Supply Scheme which supplies water to villages in three local municipalities in Sekhukhune District Municipality. Flag Boshielo water scheme is serviced through the Flag Boshielo Water Treatment Plant operated by Lepelle Northern Water.

The plant has a capacity of producing 8 megalitres per day (8MI/d) but it is augmented by a 4 megalitres per day (4MI/d) package plant, making it a total of 12 megalitres per day (12 MI/d) capacity. The plant was designed to serve 46 villages but the population has increased to 156 villages.

As a result, Sekhukhune District Municipality has a challenge of supplying sufficient water to its municipalities and uses rationing schedule and tankering services to augment water supply.

However, the Department of Water and Sanitation, through its Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), worked together with Sekhukhune District Municipality to implement short-term interventions projects. The projects focused on development of groundwater boreholes for





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immediate water supply, and the construction of pump mains including storage tanks and reticulation to ensure ease of access of water supply to the affected communities.

There are also three long-term Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) intervention projects under way to improve and augment the overloaded Flag Boshielo Scheme to ensure the sustainability of water supply. The projects are Moutse Bulk Water Supply, Nebo Bulk Water Supply and Mooihoek Bulk Water Supply.

The community members of Ephraim Mogale Municipality were represented by different forums during the interactions with officials from both Departments of Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation.

**Sanku Tsunke**



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