



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mchunu inspects progress on the implementation of the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project

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The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu officially launched the National Water Month under the theme “**Accelerating Change**” by undertaking a site inspection of the Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project and engaging beneficiary communities on Friday, 03 March 2023.

The National Water Month which incorporates the National Water Week and World Water Day on 22 March is a flagship programme of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) which puts water at the centre of the national agenda. This year’s theme seeks to inform policy and decision-makers, inside and outside the water community, how improvements in water resources management as well as access to water supply and sanitation services, are essential to overcoming poverty and addressing various other social and economic inequities.

The Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project is a true reflection of the theme as it accelerates service delivery to address social and economic inequities as three work packages out of five are currently being implemented concurrently to accelerate the project and water delivery to communities. The Loskop Regional Bulk Water Supply Project will abstract water from the Loskop Dam and supply water to twenty one (21) villages under Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province, and eight (8) villages in Moutse-East under Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality in Limpopo Province.

“This is the water month, March 2023. The national water month is merely jerking us up, reminding us to accelerate delivery of water and with all these projects, we are launching the National Water Month in South Africa and there is no other better way of doing it than holding a shovel close to the pipes, inviting water into the pipes and telling people that water is coming and they can see what we are doing. So we are hard at work and we are pleased with that”, said Minister Mchunu in officially launching the National Water Month.

In terms of accelerating water delivery to the communities, Minister Mchunu stated, “There is a timeframe until the third quarter of next year, but that does not mean that water will wait until the third quarter as and when we reach certain phases or





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milestones and pass through communities, we will allow people to get water as the mainline gets completed in different phases. Loadshedding or no loadshedding, floods or no floods, we are delivering water and it is going to happen”.

The Minister and his deputies later engaged the community of Verena in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality to give feedback on progress in terms of project implementation. “March is Water Month as well as Human Rights Month here in South Africa. The Constitution says water is a basic human rights and it is our responsibility to ensure that people have access to water. As a Department we have decided to celebrate the launch of the water month with you and to give you feedback on the Loskop project as we met with you last year”, he said.

Minister Mchunu expressed his satisfaction and told the community that he was happy with the progress on the three of the five work packages currently taking place concurrently. He further encouraged the community to pay for water, especially when they start receiving water when the project is completed to ensure the sustainability of quality services.

Themba Khoza

