



INTERNET ARTICLE

Forum Engagement in Tseoge, Morokweng the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District

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North West Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) spent three days in Dr Ruth District Municipality engaging with community forum members to find solutions for water and sanitation challenges in the District. The forum engagements were held at Tseoge, Morokweng and Ganyesa Villages.

As this is World Toilet Month, Ms Mangi Rakale from DWS Sanitation Section informed the community of Tseoge about the importance of toilets. Community members were reminded to not use the toilet as a dumping side and to take care of it as it is sensitive and needs to be handled correctly. "We need behavioural change, people should know that the toilet is to be used only for bodily fluids and nothing else, no pampers and tampons. People should not throw their old clothes in the toilet" Ms Rakale said.

The forum was further informed about the water projects that will bring relief to them. "The WSIG project in BonaBona that will be completed soon will bring relief to the community" said Mr Peter Mogosetso from DWS.

The forum in Morokweng addressed of illegal connection to water infrastructure as well as community members who fills their Jojo tanks with community water, making it impossible for other community members to receive water. Some install hosepipes to fill in their drums and some farmers take water to their farms. Magalies Water, represented at the meeting, also submitted similar complaints.

The forum members further complained about the sewage spilling in open fields. The community pointed at certain government departments as the main culprits for causing sewage spillage in open areas. DWS officials undertook to engage with the Department of Public Works and Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to investigate the matter.

At Morokweng village, it was decided that a new forum should be elected, and it should constitute the tribal authority representatives, councillors and municipality, community development officers and community leaders. A request was also made to invite a representative from the department of agriculture to present about water for the farmers. A date will be communicated for the election and installation of the new forum in Morokweng.

The forum in Ganyesa could not proceed because the invited councillors had other commitments on the day. DWS will keep on having these engagements because the purpose of establishing and engaging with these forums is to ease communication and to provide direct/reliable water and sanitation information to the communities, regarding progress, challenges and envisaged developments in the water and sanitation business.

The establishment and launch of these forums will also empower forum members to actively participate in the water and sanitation business processes, while enabling informed decisions

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making towards water and sanitation services within their respective Local Municipalities and the communities.

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