



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshabalala hands over upgraded water treatment plant in Balfour

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Deputy Minister Judith Tshabalala together with the Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu handed over the upgraded Fortuna Water Treatment Plant in Balfour to the Dipaleseng Local Municipality which was represented by the Executive Mayor Cllr Khethiwe Moeketsi on Friday, 03 May 2024.

The Scope for the Upgrading of the Fortuna Water Treatment Plant entailed the upgrading and refurbishment of the existing Water Treatment Work (WTW) from a 6.5 Ml/d to a total capacity of 19.5Ml/day by adding new 13Ml/day.

The project scope included upgrading the existing raw water abstraction pump station and its associated pipelines and fittings, a new 400 diameter pipeline from the abstraction point to the new inlet structure, a new inlet structure, like the existing inlet works which will be capable of handling the 13MI/d flow, the upgrade of the existing chemical dosing station and the upgrade of the existing chemical dosing station, amongst others.

In her handover address, Deputy Minister Tshabalala expressed her satisfaction with the project and progress made.

“As the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, we came here last year to assess the state of water infrastructure. When we were here, the infrastructure was not good, and the water quality was not good. So today, I can safely say that I am happy. The plant has been upgraded from the 6.5 ml/d by 13 ml/d and that gives us a total of 19.5 ml/d and that means that it is going to service the entire six wards of this area where they are going to have clean potable water”, she said.

The Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District, Cllr Mngomezulu also expressed optimism on the work carried out to effectively upgrade the infrastructure.

“As Gert Sibande, we are excited that we are today bearing testimony to the handover of the project. With what we have done as an Implementing Agent, we are happy. We also want to appreciate the local municipality for their prompt response in respect of the recommendations of the water services authorities’ summit that we had in Boksburg earlier this year, where the Minister was clear in terms of what we should do to improve the status of the Blue Drop,” he said.

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“The Deputy Minister is correct, the status was not pleasing here, at 7%, is the worst municipality in terms of the Blue Drop status in the country. But today they have demonstrated to us that they are willing to cooperate. This is a regional bulk scheme that we’ll have to be proud of and we thank the support that the DWS and the investment, financial investment that they have done in this municipality”, he added.

After the formal handover, the Deputy Minister and Executive Mayors engaged the community in Grootvlei. “When we get to issues of water, in the six wards we start a new era because as I speak to you water is flowing in your houses in the entire six wards. The democratic constitution of ours reminds us that water is life, and therefore people must get water,” Deputy Minister Tshabalala emphasised.

She further called on the community to take care and protect the infrastructure, especially from vandalism. “People are vandalising the infrastructure. Please make sure you take care of the infrastructure. Vandalism is an enemy of development, is an enemy against democracy, is an enemy against the dignity of our people. I humbly request you to report criminals who vandalise this infrastructure. Take care of the infrastructure, take care of the future. It’s in your hands, you must take care and protect the infrastructure”, she concluded.

Themba Khoza

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