



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Mahlobo expresses satisfaction with progress of Driekoppies WTW Project but concerned with high water losses

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The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, David Mahlobo expressed his satisfaction with progress during his oversight visit to the Driekoppies Water Treatment Works project in Nkomazi Local Municipality on 30 October 2025. He was accompanied by the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Speedy Mashilo, Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District, Cllr Terra Shabangu and the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality, Cllr Phindile Magagula.

The Driekoppies Water Treatment Works project is part of the Driekoppies Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme project is funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation under the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) with Ehlanzeni District Municipality as the Implementing Agent.

The project entails upgrading of Driekoppies Water Treatment Works from 20 megalitres per day (ml/d) to 40 ml/d as well as construction of bulk distribution pipelines, storage facilities and pump stations to augment potable water supply to Driekoppies and surrounding areas.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo expressed his satisfaction on how the project is progressing but also called for some acceleration. "We are very pleased that the new contractor is ahead of schedule and the MEC and myself have directed them that the builders' holiday has been postponed. In other words, they will put more additional hours and teams. By next year March, an additional 10 megalitres capacity will be available," stated Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

Even though Deputy Minister Mahlobo expressed satisfaction with the work done so far, he expressed concern with the high water losses experienced in the municipal water supply system. "...and lastly, the MEC and myself have agreed that the current system in Nkomazi has weaknesses. There are a number of communities that don't have water and there are too much water losses. We have given them a period of seven days to work a concrete plan under the technical team led by HOD (Head of Department) of COGHSTA supported by the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation, and the District, under the leadership of the MEC and myself," he added.

MEC Mashilo also raised concern over the high water losses and expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Department and the Deputy Minister. He commended the stance of collaborative work to ensure the effective implementation of bulk water and sanitation projects.

"We appreciate the support from the Department of Water and Sanitation through Deputy Minister Mahlobo. The upgrading of the water treatment scheme will improve the availability and

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supply of drinking water to various nearby villages. We promise to ensure the provision of equitable and excellent quality water supply as well as dignified sanitation for all. There is quite promising work and as the Deputy Minister has said, we are looking forward to March 2026 to add the additional 10 megalitres. Obviously, the key issue is the water losses, and we are looking forward to the plan in seven days. We are quite happy with the interventions of national government”, stated MEC Mashilo.

The Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Cllr Terra Shabangu also appreciated the work done so far, expressing satisfaction with the contractor that this much needed project will finally benefit the community in Nkomazi.

Cllr Phindile Magagula, the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality expressed the municipality’s appreciation for the support provided by the national and provincial spheres of government in assisting the municipality to provide quality water to the residents of the municipality.

Themba Khoza

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