



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA ADVISORY

DWS commits to eradicate the remaining buckets in Free State

17 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has reiterated its commitment to eradicate the remaining bucket toilets in Free State province to ensure dignified sanitation services to the residents.

This was stated by the Provincial Head, Dr Tseliso Ntli, during the Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation oversight in Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Senekal, Clocolan Marquard and Winburg from 15 to 16 August 2018.

The Chairperson of the Committee and contingent Committee members undertook this visit to assess the progress on Bucket eradication in the province.

While DWS and Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality gave a progress report, the Water Research Commission presented on different technologies that are being tested as an alternative to water-borne toilets.

Dr Tseliso Ntli informed the Committee about the joint task team that was established in the Free State to tackle the outstanding buckets. The joint task team consists of DWS, Mangaung Metro, South African Local Government Association, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Bloemwater. The team was established after DWS Minister, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, had visited the province in June this year and saw a need for a rapid acceleration of the bucket eradication programme.

Soon after its establishment, the task team hit the ground running; however, the budget constraints, amongst other challenges, have been a stumbling block to achieving the set objectives and targets.

The committee members expressed their unhappiness about delays in eradicating the bucket system and the varying costs at which the project has been implemented.

Dr Ntli assured the committee members that the department will put the resources in place to ensure that every bucket is eradicated in the province while also explaining the reasoning towards the costs.

"Towns are not all the same size and the piping from the toilets to the Waste Water Treatment works also factored in the costs. We also wanted to introduce a dry toilet system but communities opt for water-borne system that also impact on water supply of the town. The rapid growth in some communities also causes the department and the municipality to be on a back foot especially when informal settlements are formalised and then added onto the already high backlog", explained Dr Ntli.

The Portfolio Committee promised to come back in three months' time and requested to see progress.

End



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