



MEDIA ADVISORY

DWS Intervention in Matjhabeng continues

04 August 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation in the Free State led by Provincial Head, Dr Tseliso Ntli undertook a work visit at Odendaalsrus Correction Service facility on Wednesday, 03 August 2022. The purpose of the visit was to assess the status of sewage blockages experienced at the facility as well as to discuss issues pertaining to the Waste Water Treatment Works in Matjhabeng.

Using the District Development Model approach, a task team was established with representatives from Department of Correctional Services, Department of Public Works, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Bloemwater, Matjhabeng Business Forums and local mines to find a lasting solution to the challenges facing the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) in Matjhabeng.

Amongst the issues discussed in the meeting was a need for armed security at the WWTW facilities to curb the rampant vandalism of infrastructure. Matjhabeng Local Municipality indicated that vandals go on site armed while WWTW are being upgraded or repaired and strip new material installed. A total of 52 out of the 57 Sewer Pump Stations in Matjhabeng are not operational and require refurbishment. Meanwhile, 9 out of the 11 WWTW are not operational and require refurbishment.

Dr Ntli requested that law enforcement be involved as vandals have a clear disregard for the law.

“Work by Bloemwater will continue and run concurrently with the work done by the task team”, said Dr Ntli.

Following the Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mr Senzo Mchunu’s visit to Matjhabeng in June, Bloem Water has been given the green light to immediately start the process of refurbishing the WWTW in Matjhabeng.

Government has to form partnerships with business and civil society in an endeavour to build a better water and sanitation service for all.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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