



MEDIA STATEMENT

Department of Water and Sanitation continues to empower Water and Sanitation Forum members

21 October 2021

Today, 21 October 2021, the Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng partnered with Water Aid South Africa, Meetse-A-Lekoa and Bophelong Water and Sanitation Forum held an education drive to capacitate community members capacity building workshop to educate and raise awareness to community members of Bophelong in the Vaal about effective ways of saving water.

This initiative comes days after Minister Senzo Mchunu, his deputies, Mr David Mahlobo and Ms Dikeledi Magadzi, visited several waste water treatment plants in the Emfuleni Local Municipality in Vaal with the aim of finding a permanent solution to the sewage spillage into the Vaal River, which also affect Greater Bophelong Community.

Speaking at a workshop with forum members, DWS Deputy Director: Advocacy Ms Mirriam Ngoatje said the purpose of the workshop is to empower the water and sanitation forum members to actively participate in the water and sanitation business processes. She added that this will equip the forum members to be able to make informed decisions on water and sanitation services, especially participating in the Integrated Development Planning and Water Services Development Plan within the Emfuleni Local Municipality.

“The key message being shared at this forum - is that it is up to each individual to act responsibly to save water, changing habitats, advocate for operation and maintenance of sanitation facilities, also regularly washing of hands and the perception that it is not only government or private business responsibility. Through this workshop, we envisage enhancing the understanding of and promoting informed decision-making related to water services and water resource management, as well as to revive and sustain the Water and Sanitation Forum”, said Ngoatje.

Chairperson of the Forum, Mr Thabo Seholoba said the workshop is important for forum members as it provided in-depth knowledge and understanding of challenges facing the water and sanitation sector. He added that community engagement is an important component of





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sustainable drinking water supply management as it provides on the one hand an avenue to establish the needs of communities and on the other hand ensures the buy-in and trust into systems developed by government authorities to deliver services.

“Today we are empowered to disseminate appropriate information to communities and participate in the water business effectively,” added Seholoba.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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