



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Guard water infrastructure against vandalism – says Minister Mchunu

10 October 2021

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu has urged the community of Sekhukhune District to safeguard the recently launched Flag Boshielo Water Treatment Plant against any forms of vandalism.

He was speaking during the launch of the plant on Saturday, 09 October 2021 and said the community has a big role to play in ensuring that the plant services them for years to come.

“Vandalism of water infrastructure has become a thorn in our flesh, and it is not only government’s responsibility to ensure that our infrastructure is safe, but we also need active citizenry. We need people who will stand up and protect this project and many others across the country because if it is vandalized, you are going to suffer as there will be disruption in water provision”, he said.

Furthermore, Minister Mchunu urged officials in all spheres of government to plan water infrastructure projects adequately to ensure that the projects benefit communities adjacent to them.

Minister Mchunu has maintained that it is a cardinal sin to have projects that benefit the far-flung communities and not the communities at the doorstep of the projects.

“We need to work and plan together with the local government when it comes to water projects. While we put in our bulk water infrastructure projects as constitutionally mandated, we need municipalities to start with reticulation that we will ensure that as soon as the bulk water project is completed, water can come out of the taps”, he emphasized.

Minister Mchunu applauded Lepelle Northern Water for successfully implementing the refurbishment of the Flag Boshielo Water Treatment Plant and the plant is set to benefit a total of 156 villages within Ephraim Mogale, Makhuduthamaga and Elias Motsoaledi local municipalities in the Sekhukhune District. The plant abstracts water from the nearby Flag Boshielo Dam and supplies increased potable water to 28 185 households and 112 740 persons.

The recently refurbished plant has an increased capacity to produce 16 megalitres of water per day from 8 megalitres per day which did not meet the needs and demands of the growing population of Sekhukhune District. In addition, Minister Mchunu added that plans are underway to upgrade the plant even more, to 32 megalitres per day.

The additional augmented capacity at a cost of approximately R100 million, is enabling the scheme to provide the community with greater volumes of clean potable water. Furthermore, the project created employment opportunities for 57 workers, 15 females and 13 young people.

The project is one of many water infrastructure projects implemented by the Department to increase the capacity that will meet the demands of the communities they serve.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation



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