



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Minister Majodina hands over an upgraded Water Treatment Works as part of the Peri-Urban Bulk Water Supply project in Mount Ayliff, Eastern Cape**

For Immediate Release

**19 December 2024**

Water and Sanitation Minister, Ms Pemmy Majodina has handed over a commissioning certificate of the upgraded Mount Ayliff Water Treatment Works (WTW) to the Executive Mayor of Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Cllr Vukile Mhlelembana, on Wednesday 18 December 2024, signaling a new chapter for the communities of Mt Ayliff that struggled with intermittent water supply.

Alfred Nzo District has experienced water shortages in Mount Ayliff town and the surrounding areas for a long time because of population growth and the increased demand of water supply services in the area, and the Mount Ayliff WTW could not meet water demand due to malfunction and ageing infrastructure.

The now upgraded WTW, based in uMzimvubu Local Municipality within the District will improve water supply to about 38 184 households in Emaxesibeni and the surrounding five villages of Betshwana, Singeni, Mombeni, Lubhalasi and Santombe.

The WTW is part of the R370 million Mount Ayliff Peri-Urban Bulk Water Supply Project, funded through the Department of Water and Sanitation's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG), with the Alfred Nzo District Municipality as the implementing agent.

The scope of the project entailed upgrading raw water abstraction point at Mzintlava River and installing pipelines that take raw water to a reservoir at the WTW to be treated before distribution to communities.

Another work included the construction of pump stations and upgrading of the existing gravity network pipes from the WTW.

Minister Majodina urged the District Mayor, Cllr Mehlembana to prioritise water reticulation projects that will ensure reliable and sustainable water supply to the communities.



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The Minister also highlighted that there has been progress in the revived construction of uMzimvubu Dam in uMzimvubu River, which will ensure that there is sufficient water supply in Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo District Municipalities.

“The Mount Ayliff Peri-Urban Water Supply Project is an effort by the Department of Water and Sanitation to ensure that the Alfred Nzo District has sufficient water supply. As we have completed this project, we are calling on the community of Mt Ayliff not to vandalise or illegally connect to the infrastructure installed, but should patiently wait for the reticulation projects in their areas. Plans to build uMzimvubu Dam to benefit Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo District Municipalities are at an advanced stage. This dam will ensure that there is enough water within the two Districts,” said Minister Majodina.

The Minister addressed the community of Mount Ayliff following the handing over of the upgraded WTW project to the district municipality. She called on the community to look after the water infrastructure in their areas and protect them from vandalism. She has also encouraged community members to save water and to report any water leaks to municipalities.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation.**

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