



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

“We must have a sense of urgency when supplying water to our communities”, says Deputy Minister Seitholo to municipalities in North West and Northern Cape

03 September 2024

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mr Sello Seitholo, encouraged municipalities of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality (North West) and Phokwane Local Municipality (Northern Cape) to give urgency to the basic service of water supply to the communities they serve.

Deputy Minister Seitholo met with the two municipalities yesterday in Vryburg, to discuss water supply challenges regarding a trans-boundary bulk water supply scheme that provides water to the two provinces.

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality and Phokwane Local Municipality have been experiencing unreliable water supply which has led to community calling on the Department of Water and Sanitation to intervene

He recommended the two municipalities to resolve and finalise those water services challenges speedily.

“The Department of Water and Sanitation is aware of the battle of water communities are facing, especially women. This situation should not be prolonged anymore. We must have a sense of urgency and be proactive when dealing with issues of water supply to our communities”, said Deputy Minister Seitholo.

Deputy Minister Seitholo also expressed his satisfaction with the short-term interventions by the Department, with the support of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs CoGTA in both provinces. He said that in six weeks’ time, a contractor appointed by Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality would begin with the facilitation of refurbishing and revitalizing two boreholes in Sekhing village.

He further mentioned that CoGTA in North West Province has assisted with a borehole in Upper Majeakgoro village, and the electrification of the borehole will be undertaken by Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality. In addition, Phokwane Local Municipality in Northern Cape is also in a process of refurbishing a pipeline and the pump station while water tankering will be provided as an interim solution to address the current water challenges to the communities.

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Deputy Minister Seitholo also slammed unlawful actions of connecting illegally to water infrastructure, as well as its sabotage and vandalism. He warned those who tamper with water valves and those who are in cohort with construction mafias.

“Municipalities should expose perpetrators who sabotage infrastructure in order to benefit from water tankering to communities. I want a report of these service providers for water tinkering. I also want their schedule of providing water and a full audit of water tankers should be conducted in this Province “, concluded Deputy Minister Seitholo.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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