



MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Seitholo encourages Mogalakwena Local Municipality to address challenges of dysfunctional Waste Water Treatment Plants, that contributes to contamination of watercourses

22 June 2025

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Sello Seitholo, has encouraged Mogalakwena Local Municipality to implement corrective measures to address the problem of dysfunctional waste water treatment plants that largely pollute watercourses in the area. Deputy Minister Seitholo conducted a two-day oversight visit on 20-21 June 2025 in Mogalakwena Local Municipality under Waterberg District, Limpopo province.

Deputy Minister Seitholo conducted the inspections of several projects in Mogalakwena Local Municipality including the problematic wastewater treatment plants as well as some households affected by malfunctioning sewer systems. He was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Cllr Ngoako Thulani Taueatsoala, and the Chairperson of Lepelle Northern Water Board, Dr Nndweleni Mphephu.

Deputy Minister Seitholo assessed the level of operation of Mokopane Wastewater Treatment Works, Old Masodi & Sekgakgapeng Oxidation Ponds, Masodi Wastewater Treatment Plant and Doorndraai Water Treatment Works.

The Deputy Minister said the Department of Water and Sanitation released a Green Drop Report in 2023, which indicated that Mogalakwena Local Municipality has wastewater systems that are in a critical state, requiring significant attention and improvement. The report highlighted a need for concerted effort to improve wastewater services, with a particular focus on addressing issues of effluent treatment.

“We are faced with a problem whereby 78% of the waste water treatment works in Limpopo are in a critical state and dysfunctional, and that contributes to the contamination of water courses in the province due to raw or partially treated effluent that finds its way to the rivers and dams. Water pollution does not only have a negative effect on the quality of water, but it

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also has cost implications for Municipalities to treat water in bulk. The municipality is therefore encouraged to develop a corrective action plan to address the identified shortcomings, as far as water pollution is concerned”, said Deputy Minister Seitholo.

Despite the challenges of the municipal wastewater treatment works, Deputy Minister commended the Masodi Wastewater Treatment plant which treats effluent to the required standard. The plant is a multi-year public-private partnership project by Mogalakwena Municipality and is fully funded by Ivanplats Proprietary Limited Mine. It treats 10 megalitres a day (ml/d), which improves sanitation provision to Mokopane and the surrounding areas, and also enables local industries to have access to the grey water for reuse from the treated effluent released from the plant.

“Masodi Wastewater Treatment plant is the only plant in Limpopo that is operating to treat effluent to the required standards, and this demonstrates the importance of public-private partnerships to improve water and sanitation services in the country. This was emphasised in the National Water and Sanitation Indaba held earlier this year, highlighting the need for public-private partnerships to address water and sanitation challenges”, said Deputy Minister Seitholo.

On the second day of the oversight visit, Deputy Minister Seitholo proceeded to Sekhiming and Kuranta villages, within the Greater Giyani Local Municipality in Mopani District, Limpopo, to assess the Sand Water Extraction Project.

The project, implemented by Lepelle Northern Water, involves extracting water from the sand of the Molototsi River, which is known to store water and filter it naturally. The initiative is intended to provide a reliable water source for the surrounding villages, particularly during periods of drought.

“This is also part of the resolutions taken at the Water and Sanitation Indaba, to employ innovative and technological methods to ensure that communities across the country access reliable water. This project is part of a broader effort to address water scarcity in rural areas struggling with water shortages in Limpopo province, particularly those which have been severely affected by drought in recent years”, said Deputy Minister Seitholo.

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