



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Deputy Minister Seithloho leads sanitation intervention and community engagement in Tswaing to conclude National Sanitation Month

**04 December 2025**

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Sello Seithloho, concluded National Sanitation Month with an oversight visit to the Tswaing Local Municipality in the North West on Wednesday, 03 December 2025, where he assessed urgent sanitation challenges in Sannieshof and championed key interventions to restore safe, reliable and dignified services.

National Sanitation Month, commemorated in the month of November, has been a country-wide drive to accelerate access to dignified sanitation, promote innovation in wastewater management and highlight the sector's critical role in public health, environmental protection and economic development.

During the visit, Deputy Minister Seithloho conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Sannieshof Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs), which is designed to process 770 kℓ per day, but is currently receiving inflows far beyond its capacity. This persistent overloading has resulted in severe system failures, frequent spillages and escalating environmental pollution.

Reflecting on the situation, Deputy Minister Seithloho was stern and did not mince his words. He called on both the District and Local Municipality to work in earnest to turn the situation around, adding that the Department will not hesitate to act where there is non-compliance or neglect.

"Sanitation is about dignity and each one of us deserves safe and functional services. When a Wastewater Treatment Plant fails, it is families who suffer. It is children who live with the consequences. The District and Local Municipality must move with urgency to ensure that the situation changes because we will not hesitate to act and we will enforce compliance where needed," Deputy Minister Seithloho said sternly.

The Deputy Minister then led a community engagement session that formed the heart of the day's programme where residents spoke openly about their experiences, frustrations and the daily realities of living with failing sanitation. By listening directly to the community, Deputy Minister Seithloho emphasised that meaningful solutions must be



shaped by the people who are most affected. The engagement reaffirmed that restoring trust and improving service delivery begins with honest dialogue, genuine accountability and ensuring that communities remain central to every intervention.

One of the most emotional moments of the day came when Deputy Minister Seithloho visited a family in Sannieshof. The family has been caring for a teenager with disabilities while living without a toilet, forced to rely on unsafe and undignified alternatives for years. Deeply moved by their circumstances, the Deputy Minister committed to ensuring that a Ventilated Pit (VIP) toilet will be built for the family and completed before Christmas, bringing them the dignity, safety and relief they have long deserved.

"This family has carried a heavy burden for far too long. No parent should have to raise a child, especially a child with disabilities, without something as basic as a toilet. It is simply not right, and it will certainly not happen on my watch. Before Christmas, the Lekgetho family will have a dignified, safe facility. They deserve nothing less," said Deputy Minister Seithloho.

The visit to Tswaing marks the close of National Sanitation Month with a reminder that improving sanitation is not just an infrastructure task, but a human commitment to dignity, health, safety and respect for every South African. During the engagement, Deputy Minister Seithloho was supported by senior officials from the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality and Tswaing Local Municipality.

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

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