



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Deputy Minister calls for strengthened collaboration between municipalities in Bojanala Platinum District Municipality to restore consistent water supply

10 March 2026

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr. Sello Seitholo has called on Rustenburg and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities under Bojanala District Municipality, and the Magalies Water to work together to solve infrastructure failures and service delivery constraints that affect consistent water supply to communities.

In a stakeholder meeting held at Rustenburg Civic Centre Council Chamber on 09 March 2026, the Deputy Minister highlighted the significance of the gathering in that it was taking place during the month of March, in which the country is observing the National Water Month, and therefore a critical time of reflection. “We commemorate National Water Month because many people in our country still do not have reliable access to water, and our responsibility is to close that gap and ensure that every South African has access to safe and reliable water services.

The meeting was used as a platform to engage directly with stakeholders responsible for water services in the area and to assess the status of interventions that are already underway.

Among the issues discussed were bulk water supply disruptions and wastewater management that contributes to water pollution in Rustenburg and Moses Kotane Local Municipalities. Deputy Minister Seitholo called for a strong coordination among stakeholders, accountability, and practical and time-bound solutions to restore operational stability across affected systems.

The Deputy Minister also expressed a serious concern about the contamination of the Vaalkop Dam, noting the widespread proliferation of alien invasive *Salvinia* plants that have covered almost the entire surface of the dam. He lamented that the presence of *Salvinia* plants significantly affects the ecological balance of water resources by blocking sunlight, reducing oxygen levels, and damaging aquatic ecosystems, while also complicating water abstraction processes.

The Deputy Minister further highlighted dysfunctional wastewater treatment works in both Rustenburg and Moses Kotane that have contributed to the deterioration of water quality in the area. He indicated that the Department has taken regulatory action by issuing notices and directives in terms of the National Water Act to address the discharge of untreated sewage into water resources.

He stressed that the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has a clear mandate in matters relating to wastewater management, sanitation, and pollution control, but

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must also intervene when broader water service challenges threaten the sustainability of water resources. “Our responsibility is to ensure that our water resources are protected and managed properly,” said the Deputy Minister. “When wastewater treatment systems fail and untreated sewage enters our water bodies, it undermines the very resources that communities depend on.”

As far as operational systems are concerned, Deputy Minister Seithloho noted that the Kortbegrip Reservoir System is currently operating with only one functional pump instead of three, significantly limiting the system’s capacity to supply water. He also raised concerns over the persistent electricity supply challenges at Phatsima Pump Station, which have been ongoing since 2023, and has been a major operational constraint to water distribution.

Deputy Minister Seithloho further pointed out that the decommissioning of the Bospoort Reservoir has placed significant pressure on the remaining 35-megalitre reservoir, which is unable to meet the growing demand for water. In addition, Bospoort Plant 3 is currently operating with only three of the required five pumps, resulting in frequent operational failures and reduced supply capacity.

Frequent pipe bursts along the Monakato pump line were also highlighted as a major challenge, as these incidents often result in water supply disruptions lasting between two and three days. The Deputy Minister also raised concern about the Tlhabane Reservoir under the Pilanesberg Phase 2 Project, which remains non-operational because the Mafenya Pump Station has not yet been energised despite the project having already been publicly unveiled

“These cumulative challenges have resulted in recurring water interruptions, growing frustration among communities, and negative consequences for economic activity and basic service delivery,” said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister also explained that the National Water Act and the Water Services Act clearly define the responsibilities of the various institutions involved in water management. While DWS is responsible for managing water resources and overseeing bulk water supply, local municipalities serve as Water Services Authorities responsible for the distribution and reticulation of water to communities.

“Once water is supplied to municipalities, the responsibility for its distribution and management lies with the local authority,” the Deputy Minister said. “Magalies Water provides bulk water in accordance with its licence conditions, but municipalities must ensure that the water reaches households and communities through properly functioning infrastructure.”

Throughout the meeting, the Deputy Minister called on stakeholders to be transparent and honest in their presentations regarding the state of their infrastructure and operational challenges. “We cannot solve problems if we do not first acknowledge them,” he



said. “This meeting is not about presenting perfect reports. It is about presenting the true situation so that we can work together to find solutions.”

Deputy Minister Seithloho also emphasised that while water supply issues often receive the most public attention, sanitation challenges must also be addressed with equal urgency. “Communities are not only affected by water shortages,” the Deputy Minister noted. “They are also affected by flooded sewer systems and failing wastewater treatment plants that result in sewage spillages. Sanitation is just as important as water supply.”

Following the deliberations, the Deputy Minister directed that a joint task team be established between Rustenburg Local Municipality and Magalies Water to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure sustainable water provision for the residents of Rustenburg. The task team has been requested to provide feedback to the Deputy Minister Friday 20 March 2026.

The Deputy Minister also encouraged Rustenburg Local Municipality and Magalies Water to engage further on issues related to water allocation to ensure better alignment and improved coordination.

During the meeting, Moses Kotane Local Municipality raised concerns regarding aging infrastructure and the vandalism of boreholes, which have contributed to water supply challenges in several areas. In response, the Deputy Minister indicated that Moses Kotane would be considered for inclusion in the Department of Water and Sanitation’s national borehole refurbishment programme aimed at restoring non-functional boreholes.

Moreover, Deputy Minister Seithloho concluded the meeting by encouraging stronger collaboration between municipalities and Magalies Water to ensure that infrastructure projects are implemented efficiently and within agreed timeframes. He emphasised that sustainable solutions require cooperation, accountability, and a shared commitment to improving water and sanitation services for communities.

**END**

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

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