



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Deputy Minister Mahlobo commits to fast-track water supply in Hammanskraal

08 November 2019

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister, Mr David Mahlobo, MP met with senior staff at Jubilee Hospital in Hammanskraal on Thursday, 07 November 2019, to express regret at the water challenges in the hospital and surrounds.

This came as Deputy Minister Mahlobo raised concerns at the lack of electricity back-up capacity at the Rooiwaal Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), which has left large parts of Hammanskraal without reliable water supply for weeks.

Speaking during his visit to the hospital, he directed and committed that the Department, together with the City of Tshwane, must ensure that the hospital and surrounding areas are provided with quality water while work to capacitate the Rooiwaal Wastewater Treatment Works is fast-tracked.

“I am here today because I am concerned about the water challenges in the hospital and surrounding areas,” he said. The hospital provides a very critical service and it cannot be that you do not have a basic need, such as water, that hinders you in the work that you do,” he said.

Prior to visiting the hospital, Deputy Mahlobo learnt that the Rooiwaal WWTW was struck by lightning on 18 October, leading to the treatment of wastewater being severely affected.

This happened as the City of Tshwane and the Department are working to revitalise the treatment works which is currently working below capacity.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo said water shortages had been enormous, affecting the community in general and especially the farming community.

He expressed his concerns about the time it had taken for the power to be restored, emphasising that water was important to members of the community, thus a quick turnaround time was crucial.

“There are certain sectors that are affected such as health facilities and education. This is even worse because of the heat wave. We should therefore intensify our efforts to supply water to communities by means of water tankers and also ensure people know when and where this will happen,” said Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

He further added that the Department in conjunction with the City of Tshwane will ensure that a Service Delivery Model is implemented as a way of notifying communities affected by water interruptions, particularly in terms of the times for delivery and delivery points. It was also important for such a schedule to be strictly adhered to.

**Lebogang Maseko & Hosia Sithole**

