



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Water tanks and tankers relieving communities of the hardships of walking long distances for water**

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The water tanks and tankers provided by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is ensuring reliable access to water to communities within their immediate surroundings and relieving of walking long distances to get water, especially in the informal and rural areas.

DWS is providing water tanks to municipalities to place at strategic areas as a relief intervention to ensure that communities, especially those who were experiencing serious water supply challenges, have access to water closer to their households to be able to regularly wash their hands to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The Department has also allocated water tankers to the municipalities to ensure that the tanks are regularly filled with water.

The intervention is most welcomed by the municipalities, especially the rural municipalities as it enables them to provide reliable water supply services to the communities. The intervention has added much needed resources to the limited resources of the municipalities which now makes it easier to reach a larger number of the community.

Communities are overjoyed with the intervention as it ensures that they have regular and reliable water supply close to their households. The communities are happy that they no longer have to walk long distances to get water and they no longer stay longer periods without water.

In Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, a rural municipality in the Mpumalanga Province, the communities are happy with the intervention as they now have reliable access to water through the storage tanks and tankers.

The community of Sethlare in Dingleydale B in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality could not contain their excitement with the water storage tank in their village and the regular water supply by the water tanker. A community member, Ms Nancy Mashego thanked the Department and the municipality for remembering them as they sometimes felt like the forgotten community. "We are very much thankful for the tank and that it is regularly filled





## water & sanitation

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meaning we no longer go many days without water. We hope that this service will last forever”, she said.

The community promised to take care of the tank and also monitor the water tanker to ensure that they always have reliable water supply. As the village is quite big, the community members expressed joy that the water tanker also fills the containers of those living at the upper section as it will be hard for them to go up with containers. They then requested another tank for the high lying upper area of the village.

The Department requested the community to take ownership and take care of the tank and monitor the tankers to prevent corruption. The community members were also reminded that South Africa is a water scarce country and encouraged to use the water in a more sparing and conservative manner and ensure that every member of the community has access to the water, the source of life.

**Themba Khoza**

