



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS prioritises rehabilitation of dysfunctional and aging water and sanitation infrastructure

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has placed the mounting threat of dysfunctional and aging water and sanitation infrastructure at the top of its priority areas.

The Department made this undertaken during the visit of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation in Gauteng from 05 -07 February 2020.

The committee, which visited projects in Emfuleni, Merafong City and City of Tshwane Municipalities, undertook the visits for purposes of ensuring that water and sanitation delivery through sustainable infrastructure development take place.

Emfuleni Local Municipalities is confronted by ageing and lack of proper maintenance of waste water management infrastructure that has led to the spilling of raw sewer into local streams and the Vaal River.

During the visit to the Municipality, the Portfolio Committee noted that there was reasonable progress being made to address the pollution of the Vaal River System but also stressed that more work still needed to be done.

In Merafong City Local Municipality, Director of the municipality on infrastructure, Mr Siyemthemba Mdletshe, painted picture when he made his presentation to the portfolio committee.

Mr Mdletshe highlighted the municipality was facing a challenges of illegal mining which affect it in terms of theft and vandalism.

“We have got projects where water pipes are being cut and access water so that they can wash the mine soil for purposes of cleaning the gold,” Mr Mdletshe said.

He added that in other areas they are facing challenges of theft in form of electrical equipment and vandalism.

In Hammanskraal where residents face a water problem which includes poor quality and intermittent water cuts, the Department stressed the importance of intergovernmental relations aimed at collaborative efforts with ERWAT and Magalies Water to resolve drinking water and wastewater challenges.

The Department said key to resolving the challenges, EWART and Magalies water will transfer skills to the municipality for operational and maintenance of the water and wastewater treatment plants.

On 20 June 2019, the Department conducted a joint sampling with the South African Human Rights Commission and the City of Tshwane to determine if the drinking water is fit for human consumption as per the South African National Standard (SANS) 241. The Department

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