



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

27 August 2020

DWS provides water tank to water-starved Rethabiseng community

The Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) delivery of a 10 000 litres water tank to the community of Rethabiseng near Bronkhorstspruit in the City of Tshwane, has marked a crucial step to end their distress of endemic water shortages.

This comes after the community had raised the issue of water shortages through the Presidential Hotline in July this year. The matter was then escalated to the Minister of Water and Sanitation, which led to the intervention and subsequent delivery of the water tank by the Department on Tuesday, 25 August 2020.

Mainly, the water tank will assist the community to practise proper hygiene by washing hands to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 as Gauteng remains the hotspot of the virus. The water tank will also assist community with drinking water as they had to harvest it from storm water channel, resulting in some of them falling sick.

Themba Motau, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the project, praised the relentless efforts of the Department to provide the life-saving water tank to the community, saying this would assist in preventing the spread of the deadly coronavirus in the community.

"Thanks to the Department, the community will now be able to practice good hygiene by washing hands with water and soap. The widespread lack of water meant that we were not able to adequately wash our hands and this put us in the eye of the coronavirus," said the satisfied Motau.

He said the water tank would not only assist them to prevent contracting the virus but will go a long way to make sure they have enough for drinking purposes.

He said: "Shortages of water in our areas had a detrimental effect on our health and the water we harvested from the storm water channel caused a number of people to get sick. Thus, we welcome the good gesture of this water tanks since will ease the dire situation we have had to contend with."



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DWS's Deputy Director responsible for the supply of the water tank, Nondumiso Mabe, said the coronavirus is an invisible and deadly virus that has ravaged communities and that water was crucial to prevent its spread.

She said lack of water could open up communities to serious dangers of contracting the virus and this was the reason why the Department had to do everything in its power to ensure that the community was supplied with water.

“Gauteng is a hotspot and communities put their trust in government for the provision of water to curtail the spread of the virus. So, as the Department we ensured that we acted on the trust that people have in us to deliver basic services such as water,” said Mabe.

Mabe added that working cooperatively with the City of Tshwane in Region 7, the water tank would be filled up as and when it is required so that communities not adversely affected by lack of water in the area.

Hosia Sithole