



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

15 June 2020

#### **DWS's delivery of 40 water tanks to needy schools poke holes into spread of COVID-19**

The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) has rolled out forty water tanks to eleven schools in the City of Tshwane, punching holes into the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus.

This happened as Grade 7 and 12 learners across the country returned to schools since they were closed in March to prevent transmission of the disease and to flatten the curve.

The nine schools are in areas that have been identified as hotspots in Hammanskraal and therefore required to increase their safety measures by supplying water tanks. Each school in Hammanskraal benefited from four (2 500 litres) water tanks while in Sokhulumu the two schools each received two (5 000 litres) water tankers.

Deputy Principal at Adam Masebo Secondary School in Sekampaneng Village, Mr Ezekiel Moema, thanked the Department for providing water tanks, saying there was a general lack of water in the area, which adversely affected water supply to the school.

He said the water tanks would alleviate challenges of water supply at the school even though the magnitude of the problem was bigger as a result of lack of running water in the area.

DWS' Gauteng Provincial Head, Mr Sibusiso Mthembu, expressed hope that the provision of the water tanks in these schools would go a long way towards ensuring that they (schools) were better prepared to resume teaching and learning and that both learners and staff were sufficiently protected in the midst of the spreading virus.

He said the lack of adequate access to water at schools would be detrimental, adding that targeting schools in areas that have been flagged as hotspots would ensure they were assisted to create an environment conducive for learning during this time of COVID-19.

Mthembu said Hammanskraal was one of the areas with on-going water challenges and this necessitated that it receives specific focus, especially as schools have reopened.

"We are acutely aware about the need to provide adequate water supply to schools and moreover in areas that have water challenges. One of the ways to prevent the spread of the coronavirus is to make sure the challenge of water shortages at schools is swiftly addressed. Learners have lost so much time and must catch up as fast as possible. So, there is no need to burden them with issues of water shortages," Mthembu said.



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He said: “Education is one area of our important enterprises and therefore requires everyone to play a role. The provision of water for learners to wash hands regularly is but one of the necessities needed for learners to catch up on their studies.”

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