



INTERNET ARTICLE

KZN's Greater Bulwer Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme makes headway

25 September 2020

As part of the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant projects in Kwazulu Natal, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has funded the Greater Bulwer (Donnybrook) Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme that is currently being implemented in the province. The project's implementing agent is the Harry Gwala District Municipality. Its foot print borders between Ubuhlebezwe and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipalities.

The project is comprised of five segments which are; the construction of Bulk Water Pipeline from Bulwer Emergency Intervention to Gala Reservoir, establishment of Bulk Water Pipeline from Bulwer Emergency Intervention to Mawuleni Reservoir, creation of Bulk Water Pipeline from Sappi-Ngudwini Dam to eMnywaneni, building of Ixopo Augmentation 10 ML RC reservoir in Chibini and erection of Ductile Iron and Fittings Material Supply to Sappi.

The 4th Quarter starting from the 1st of April 2020-30th of June 2020 Performance Evaluation indicates that the Construction of Bulk Water Pipeline from Bulwer Emergency Intervention to Gala reservoir is 95% complete. This was awarded to Egxeni Engineering at a value of R 37, 960, 421.16, and it commenced on the 1st of March 2017, it is expected to be fully completed by the 30th of September 2020. The activity of the above-mentioned project includes but not limited to Laying of 620m of 600 mm diameter steel pipelines, development of 300KL prefabricated steel reservoir and laying of 1475m of 500mm diameter steel pipe CL 30.

Some of the projects such as Bulwer to Mawuleni which is handled by Mabona Civils have been completed entirely. The activity that is behind schedule is that of the Construction of Ductile Iron and Fittings Material Supply to Sappi, it is sitting at 22% completion. The contractor NRB Piping System cited COVID-19 lockdown as the reason for the delay which has affected supply of the material to the project.

The commencement of the projects has created employment of 31 locals including youths and women. The full completion will ensure that approximately 97 628 people, and around 15 villages within Ubuhlebezwe and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipalities has access to portable water.

Among the villages set to benefit from this flagship venture in Ubuhlebezwe which is around Ixopo Town are; eMnywaneni, eMasameni, KwaSawoti, eSikhesheni, Ntakama, Ufafa, and (Chibini) Mashakeni. In so far as Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality is concerned residents of KwaSandanezwe, Mahohoho, Voyizana-Mphithini, Bhidla-Nonguqa, Mbhulelweni, Tafuleni, Nkwezela, Mawuleni and etc will also benefit from these activities.

These projects that the Department of Water and Sanitation together with the municipalities has undertaken are significant strides towards realising the ultimate goal of providing portable water to as many communities as possible.

Fhatuwani Tshikulumela

