



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Sisulu addresses water supply issues at Sekhukhune District Municipality

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Residents of Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo, particularly of Moutse, have been without water for a long time. This has resulted in service delivery protests in the District, with lack of access to water being the main bone of contention.

The shortage of water in the area is caused by non-reticulation of water due to a Bulk Water Pipeline that is not functional. As a result, the community had to buy water from people who operated their own boreholes.

Philadelphia Hospital, which serves the residents of Sekhukhune District, is the perfect example of the difficulties experienced by the community. The hospital has been operating with less water – making it a challenge for the hospital to operate optimally.

However, this situation received attention from the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu who visited the area of Moutse near Groblersdal on Friday 14th February. She was joined by Limpopo Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and CoGHSTA MEC Basikopo Makamu, Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr Keamotseng Ramalia, together with the Lepelle Northern Water Board.

Minister Sisulu pledged an amount of R143 million to address long-standing water challenges in Sekhukhune District Municipality. The funds will be administered by Lepelle Northern Water as the implementing agent, to address the long-standing challenges of water within the District Municipality. Some of the work includes the drilling of new boreholes and refurbishment of the existing ones in the area.

Minister Sisulu also pledged five water tankers and 20 water tanks that will provide immediate relief to water supply challenges in the areas. This short-term measure will be under the responsibility of Sekhukhune District Municipality, and this will eradicate commercialisation of water by certain individuals.





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“The Municipality should meet with these people who are doing business with tankering and ensure that they stop their business as it will now be the responsibility of the Municipality to deliver water through water tankering and tanks. We have witnessed corruption due to the supply of water by these private individuals operating the water tankering. From now, it should be the responsibility of the Municipality”, said Minister Sisulu.

Minister Sisulu has assured community members that there will be an additional ten trucks supplying water in the area, and ten more tanks will be added to ensure that all the residents of Moutse have water. She emphasised that these will be interim measures while the Municipality works with Lepelle Northern Water Board, the province, and the DWS Limpopo office to initiate projects of sustainable water reticulation in the area.

“I first have to apologise to the community on behalf of government for the challenges that you have had for a long time. I would like to assure you that we have heard your cries and our presence here shows that we care so much about you.

“I have tasked the Municipality and Lepelle Northern Water to work together to ensure that the community of Sekhukhune has access to water”, said Minister Sisulu.

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Cllr. Stanley Ramaila emphasized that the Municipality is working with Department of Water and Sanitation’s Limpopo Provincial Office to speed up the process of water reticulation in the area. “As the Municipality, we have developed Reticulation Business Plans and are working with the provincial office of DWS for approval before there can be a budget allocation to the project. Following a review of the budget, funds will be allocated to initiate projects in collaboration with DWS and Lepelle Northern Water Board”, said Executive Mayor Ramaila.

The Premier of Limpopo has described how government, through its new District Development Model will ensure that all three spheres of government: national, provincial and local level will work together to expedite the delivery of services to communities.

“It is for this reason you see all of us here today to give ultimate attention to the plight of water in the area. As a collective, we will be working together to address this challenge of water shortage in the area. It has been going on for a long time but this is the beginning of change and I am confident that with the short-term and long-term measures presented today, the problem of water in Sekhukhune District will be a thing of the past”, said Premier Mathabatha.





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The Royal House of Ba-Ntoane, Moshate, under the leadership of Kgoshi Mathebe III, which hosted the Minister and provincial leadership, expressed their appreciation for the Minister to come to their area to address their old water challenges.

Sanku Tsunke

