



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Sisulu to fast track provision of water supply to Vhembe area

14 December 2020

The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu met with traditional leaders and stakeholders at Vhembe District Municipality to discuss issues related to water reticulation and compensation of communities who were relocated as a result of the construction of Nandoni Dam. Minister Sisulu was in a meeting with senior officials of Department of Water and Sanitation, together with the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr Dowelani Nenguda, the Acting Chair and Acting Chief Executive of Lepelle Northern Water, Mr Joe Mathebula and Mr Ahuiwi Netshidaulu, including the Chief vho Thobela Ramovha.

In discussion with Minister Sisulu, Chief vho Thobela Ramovha acknowledged the progress made in Vhembe for the provision of water and to facilitate compensation for displaced communities as a result of the construction of Nandoni Dam. However, the Chief lamented about other villages such Mashau and Kutama Sinthumule that still struggle with water.

“These areas have been struggling to receive water for a long time. The people are aware that there is this national project [Nandoni Dam] but there is a severe shortage of water supply to their villages. We therefore appeal to the Honourable Minister Sisulu to make interventions so that our communities can receive water”, said Chief Ramovha.

Minister Sisulu offered an apology to Chief Ramovha and the entire communities of Vhembe who were subjected to a severe water shortage for a long time. She made a commitment to finalise outstanding issues in the short time so that water supply challenges in the area can be resolved.

“I have directed the Acting Director-General and all senior managers that all promises given to communities where we have built dams must be fulfilled within a year or the shortest time possible. The Nandoni Dam must provide water to its immediate villages before being delivered to other villages and towns”, said Sisulu.

The Minister also promised to return in the new year with a team that will work with all stakeholders to finalise a detailed programme with timeframes.

Sanku Tsunke

