



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Mookgopong residents will have water before Christmas - Deputy Minister Mahlobo**

30 November 2020

Deputy Minister David Mahlobo has promised the embattled community of Mookgopong in Limpopo that they will have potable water by Christmas. This follows a visit to the area on Monday to assess the extent of water shortages that have plagued the town over the years.

Accompanied by the Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgopong District Municipality, Marilyn Van Bade, Mahlobo ordered an immediate mobilisation of technology and skills to facilitate a speedy solution to the perennial water problems in the area.

The two met with managers of the tin mine outside Mookgopong where they agreed to use the water resources of the mine to supply water to the embattled communities of the citrus town.

During the visit to the mine the two leaders found that there were three idling boreholes that could be used to pump water to Mookgopong for domestic and agricultural use. Water levels at the Frikkie Gyssel Dam are so low that it cannot sustain water supply to local water users. Heavy rains that fell in the area over the last few days have not helped to raise the dam levels.

Mahlobo said modern technology should be mobilized to make interim arrangements to pump water from the mine to local residents for domestic and agricultural use. Tin mining at the mine was discontinued when it became economically redundant. However, the water infrastructure remained intact and the mine management still holds a water use licence. The mine owners said infrastructure at the mine had a potential to supply water to the needy communities as it also received water through the Welgevonden Falls.

“In all fairness I don’t think any official can be allowed to take the December leave while our people don’t have water. I want this project to be started immediately. I will return in two to three weeks to check progress made.”

Mahlobo added that the DWS would work closely with the municipality to find money for the implementation of the planned water project. The department would enter into negotiations to resolve issues around the mine’s water use licence. The department would bring legal and technological expertise to find ways of treating mine water and transfer it to the community within three to four weeks.



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A presentation made by Thabang Selemela, a municipal water expert, indicated that only 12 of 19 boreholes were working and they yielded 2,9 million cubic metres for consumption by a population of 107 699 people. Of the 28 977 houses, only 22 627 had access to borehole water.

**Themba Khumalo**