INTERNET ARTICLE

Problem is not water, but politics

21 October 2020

On the 21 October 2020, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with Amathole District Municipality (ADM) and Amatola Water Board held a joint media briefing in East London that seeks to address the water challenges of Eastern Cape, specifically in Butterworth.

The Provincial Head of DWS, Ms Portia Makhanya gave the overall status of the water situation in the province and interventions made. Ms Makhanya said the DWS through its entities Amatola Water and Rand Water, together with Amathole District Municipality, have doubled their efforts to ensure that the residents in Butterworth and surrounding areas have sufficient water. She said from the beginning of lockdown, government has delivered 171 water trucks and 5694 water tanks to all municipalities in the Eastern Cape since the advent of Coronavirus pandemic in the country.

Ms Makhanya added that 24 temporary boreholes have been drilled across Butterworth, of which four of these have been equipped with hand pumps and are producing good quality water suitable for human consumption. She said the aim of drilling boreholes is to increase water delivery in Mnquma Local Municipality and augment the current tankering services now.

The Municipal Manager of ADM, Dr. Thandekile Mnyimba also outlined water challenges of Amathole District specifically Butterworth. In his briefing to members of the media, Municipal Manger, Dr. Mnyimba highlighted that government is working hard to ease water challenges in Mnquma Local Municipality. He said that by end October 2020, the DWS will have established a site office for the Tsomo-Ngqamakhwe Phase 5a water pipeline project that will cost R735 million.

Dr Mnyimba also mentioned that water challenges of Butterworth are mainly caused by politics from the people who call themselves a concerned group. He said this group of people attend progressive meetings but ultimately convey different messages to communities.

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