



INTERNET ARTICLE

Vaal River System Intervention progressing well – says Minister Sisulu

22 January 2020

The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu has expressed her appreciation at the work done by Ekurhuleni Water Care Company (ERWAT) to ease a problem of sewage spillages at Emfuleni Municipality area. The problem of spillages has mainly contributed to the pollution of Vaal River.

Minister Sisulu has assured the community of Emfuleni that the problem of sewage spillage would be a thing of the past. ERWAT resumed with the unblocking of reticulation on 02 December 2019, and will not only be looking at unblocking stoppages but will also focus on refurbishment of pipeline networks and its maintenance.

“It has taken us a long time to get to this point, as we know that the problem of spillage has been going on for an extended period of time. This problem not only affected the local community, but it also affected the local tourism badly. However, I would like to assure the community and the rest of South Africa that the government is committed to do things differently, and to ensure that people live in dignity. We were saddened about the problem here in Emfuleni and we are working to ensure that it won’t happen again”, said Minister Sisulu.

Minister Sisulu has given ERWAT until June this year to complete its projects, and provide the overall feedback on the Vaal River Intervention project.

ERWAT Managing Director, Mr Tumelo Gopane said ten contractors were appointed and 117 local people from Emfuleni were employed.

He said a lot of wastewater networks in Vereeniging have been cleared, which has resulted in the increase of water flow to Wastewater Treatment Plants. He said before unblocking of the sewage systems, 20% of wastewater could reach the plants and 80% of it would be lost to spillage.

Mr Gopane has however lamented at the foreign objects taken out from the Wastewater pipelines. He has called on more educative initiatives to communities about objects that need not make it to the sewage system.

“The stuff that has been taken out from the sewages was put there by human beings. We really need to change the way we do things, not only to residents of Emfuleni but to the citizens as a whole. If we do not change, we will forever need intervention”, he said.

In curbing the problem of pollution of the wastewater networks, Mr Gopane said ERWAT is going to review the bylaws of Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) related to wastewater. He said ELM has to enforce existing and updated bylaws. For instance, food outlets should install fat traps, to avoid fat being deposited in the sewage systems.

ERWAT will fast track the process of refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plants to ensure that there is an increased water inflow of wastewater to the Wastewater Treatment Plants.





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Minister Sisulu received support from local business communities to guarantee that the Vaal Intervention Project in Emfuleni is successful.

Sanku Tsunke



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA