



## **INTERNET ARTICLE**

### **DWS and SAHRC conduct monitoring oversight visit at Temba Water Purification and Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works**

**02 September 2021**

On Thursday, 02 September 2021, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng joined the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), to conduct a monitoring visit at Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works and Temba Water Treatment Works.

This comes after residents of Temba approached the SAHRC to complain about water quality in their area. They further complained about a recurring problem of sewage spillage that continues to pollute farmlands as well as the Apies River, placing the community at risk.

Built in 1951, the Rooiwal WWTP serves areas such as Soshanguve, Pretoria North, Rosslyn and Wonderboom and has an average treatment capacity of 180 Mega Litres per day. Historically, the plant is responsible for sewage spillage owing to cable theft, lack of preventative maintenance and frequent electrical failure on equipment due to old infrastructure.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation conducted an oversight visit to the facility in 2019 and 2020, and has instructed the City of Tshwane to urgently resolve the water and wastewater challenges.

The SAHRC Provincial Head in Gauteng, Mr Buang Jones, said there is great appreciation for the progress that has been made by different stakeholders to deal with the challenges of sewer spillages, and to restore the dignity of residents.

Noticing the work being done at the treatment works, Mr Jones said that he was confident that the upgrade that was carried out at the treatment works was bearing fruit.

The SAHRC was joined in the monitoring visit by DWS Director: Regulations in Gauteng, Mr Donald Mabada, DWS North West Provincial Head, Mr Chadwick Lobakeng, Acting Chief Director: Water Use, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement, Mr Siboniso Mkhaphi, DWS North West Director: Regulations Mr Justice Maluleke and the Executive Mayor of City of Tshwane, Councillor Randal Williams together with MMC for Utilities, Councillor Phillip Nel.

“We realise that this has caused hardship and inconvenience to many residents in the area. With the start of the new financial year, the City has started a new maintenance budget cycle, and this will allow for further, much needed repairs and maintenance work to be done”, said Cllr Nel.

Mr Mabada highlighted that, as much as there is progress in the project, there are still concerns with the quality of waste water discharged into Apies River, which impact on the source water of the Temba Water Purification Plant.

**Khulekani Ngcobo**