



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS is committed to pay Nandoni residents by end of March 2021**

8 February 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation intends to finalise the compensation payment of Nandoni in Vhembe District, Limpopo, by the end of the 2020/21 Financial Year next month.

This comes after delays in payments due to circumstances that are beyond the department. However, so far 300 claimants have already been paid through a process that was started by the department in November last year.

In 1998 the department relocated residents from 33 villages near the dam site to make way for the construction of the water facility. They were moved to modern houses and offered vast patches of land for orchards as part of their compensation deal.

In 2020 the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, David Mahlobo, visited Nandoni and twice in October and November met with affected residents, community leaders, traditional leaders and officials of Vhembe District Municipality to discuss their compensation. At both meetings it was agreed to speed-up the compensation of residents. In December of the same year the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, also met with the community and traditional leaders to confirm the compensation deal.

As a result, 300 affected families have already been paid their compensation and the department is in the process of paying outstanding families. The department has committed itself to complete the process of payment by the end of next month which is the end of national government's financial year.

The claimants will be compensated according to the size of land they lost before compensation, in line with the value of the land before relocation. This means that the claimants will be paid different amounts. Given the current pandemic situation in the country, there is a slight delay in signing letters of compensation to the claimants. Queries by the claimants on their payments will only be attended to after everyone has received their compensation.

The department appealed to affected communities to be patient as the process to finalise their compensation continues after their relocation. It appealed to the claimants not to be distracted from the agreements and timelines as per previous meetings with Minister Sisulu and Deputy Minister Mahlobo. The DWS is intent on bringing the matter to a close as quickly as possible.

**Themba Khumalo**