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Minister Mchunu says elections or not elections, service delivery should be prioritised

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The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu, told Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipal officials that the delivery of water to communities should not wait until after the elections.

He was speaking during his follow up visit to Free State, with a special visit to Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality where he met with different stakeholders to assess the state of water and sanitation in Harrismith, QwaQwa and Kestel on Monday, 04 October 2021.

During this follow up visit, Minister Mchunu was joined by Deputy Minister David Mahlobo and the new MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Mxolisi Dukwana and representatives from the local municipality.

Topping the agenda during the discussions was the municipality's debt to the Department amounting to half a billion rand, as well as sewage spillages that are causing stink in the affected communities. In addition to this, vandalism of water infrastructure, theft, and ageing infrastructure were said to be some of the causes of intermittent water supply in the municipality.

During the meeting, Minister Mchunu did not mince his words when he said this government at all levels, has no excuse but to deliver services to the people and water must come out of the taps.

"Every tap in South Africa should be having water not just in certain towns and areas. When there is no water people look at National department. Whenever they see a spillage, they ask where is the minister? They think I am sleeping on the job," said Minister Mchunu.

Mchunu called on municipal officials to find lasting solutions to the problems facing Maluti-a-Phofung.

Municipal Manager, Mr Futhuli Mothamaha said that the municipality has begun a programme of installing pre-paid meters in order to address the issue of non-collection of revenue.

The municipality will build capacity for maintenance as it appeared that there is a delay between damage to infrastructure and repair.

MEC Mxolisi Dukwana observed that there has been a rise in vandalism and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure especially leading up to the local government elections.





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Minister Mchunu gave a directive that sewage spillages should be prioritized and fixed as a matter of urgency to restore people's dignity.

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