



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water is not an electioneering tool – Deputy Minister Magadzi

2 October 2021

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Dikeledi Magadzi, has rejected as unfounded allegations that water was being used by her department as an electioneering tool.

Addressing the community of Ga-Malekana in Limpopo, together with the local tribal leaders on Friday 1 October 2021, Magadzi said the political leadership of the Department had been instructed by President Ramaphosa when he appointed them to prioritise water and sanitation and get to the root-cause of the of the problem of water in the country.

“Subsequently, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation decided to visit various provinces in the country to address water challenges among the communities. As a result we have visited the Free State, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. We have met with the leadership of the department’s parastatals, municipalities, Premiers and a host of other people who are affected by the shortage of water,” Magadzi said.

She was on a visit to Sekhukhune Region to meet with leaders across the spectrum to discuss water challenges in the area. She said she was aware that some people accused the Ministry of visiting beleaguered communities to garner votes for the ruling party. However, Magadzi assured the Ga-Malekana community and their leaders that the Ministry would return to them after the elections until their water problems had been addressed. At the same time, whether it is election time or not, government must continue to work.

She said Minister Senzo Mchunu, Deputy Minister David Mahlobo and herself were working tirelessly to address water issues throughout the country as per the President’s instruction. Minister Mchunu is soon scheduled to visit the Giyani Bulk Water Scheme with a view to find a speedy solution to the project.

She said it was unacceptable that the Ga-Malekana community lived next to De Hoop Dam, yet they did not have access to water.

The Acting Regional Head for the Department in Limpopo, Thivhlonali Masindi, said De Hoop Dam was completed in 2014 with the first section (40km) of the primary bulk pipeline to Steelpoort as part of the Olifants River Water Resource Development Project Phase 2C. The construction of secondary bulk from Ga-Malekana Water Treatment Works (WTW) started in January 2009 with the aim of distributing water to villages within Nebo plateau from De Hoop upon completion

However, the project experienced several problems as the commissioning of the pipeline was halted due to the contractor experiencing cash flow challenges and ultimately placed under business rescue.

The scheme was however partially commissioned operating at 2 megalitres a day and currently serving 4 705 households at Ga Malekana, Ga Masha, Maphopha and Ga-Rantho.



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The Sekhukhune District Municipality in its capacity as an implementing agent for the Department and benefiting Water Services Authority (WSA) was in the process of resuscitating the commissioning process to functionalize the pipeline from Ga-Malekana to Jane Furse, Masindi said the pipeline from Jane Furse to Lobethal (Phase 3A) was put on hold at 84% completion due to non-performance by the contractor and the Professional Services Provider appointed by Sekhukhune District Municipality. The Municipality terminated the contracts of both the contractor and the PSP in November 2018 and conducted assessment of the project to quantify the remaining works in 2019. The Municipality needed to appoint a PSP and a contractor to complete the remaining work using retention and remaining funds on the project.

Themba Khumalo