



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS strengthens working relations with Water and Sanitation Community Forum in Makhado

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Limpopo Provincial Department of Water and Sanitation together with Makhado Municipality met with various community water and sanitation forum members to strengthen their working relationship. Their meeting was to give updates and progress on identified water challenge and projects within the Municipality.

Outlining the objectives of the session, Stakeholder Management Officer from DWS Ms Ntsebeng Monggae, mentioned that the Department has established community forums with the main purpose to create a platform to engage with community members in addressing water challenges within the area. She also said the purpose of the forums is to reach mutual solutions between the Department and the stakeholders, be it short or long solutions.

"I want to applaud Limpopo for keeping the forums active. Our presence here is to capacitate forum members on Departmental programmes and activities and to also ensure that the forums are alive and active. To establish and strengthen these community forums will assist the Department to reach out to communities and minimise water protests mainly due to lack of information about the good work that the government is doing", said Ms Monggae.

Mr Oupa Machado, DWS official from Intergovernmental Relations Office also reiterated the importance of establishment of water and sanitation forums. He said the forums are meant to create a direct link between government and the community, particularly in addressing service delivery challenges.

"The Department is trying to create a two-way flow of information with community members and encourage public participation. Community members need to know their roles and responsibilities and to also know where to report challenges they are faced with in their areas", said Mr Machado.

He concluded by emphasising that community forum members should work together with the Department and become communication channels to pass information to their communities.

Tshililo Emerly Mpaphuli, Makhado Water and Sanitation Community Forum Chairperson acknowledged participation of officials from DWS and community members in the forum. She however raised a concern of delay of municipality offices when responding to water shortage in their villages. She requested that the forum should at least meet once a month to discuss water challenges and give progress.

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