



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mchunu and Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane engage Thembisile Hani LM stakeholders on Loskop pipeline project

30 June 2022

The Minister of Water and Sanitation Senzo Mchunu accompanied by his deputy David Mahlobo together with the Premier of Mpumalanga Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, MEC for COGTA Mandla Ndlovu, Nkangala District Executive Mayor Cllr Khoza-Mabuza and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality Executive Mayor Cllr Dikgale engaged community stakeholders in Verena on 28 June 2022 to brief and update them of the progress on the Loskop pipeline project that is meant to address the water shortage challenges in the municipality.

The Loskop Bulk Water Supply project includes a bulk pipeline from Loskop Dam in Mpumalanga to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in the Nkangala District of Mpumalanga for domestic water supply. It also includes abstraction works, water treatment works, pump stations and storage reservoir. It is aimed at providing water to about 130 000 people in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. This bulk pipeline passes through the Moutse-East area in Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo and is also to supply treated water to eight villages in Moutse through a water treatment works and distribution network.

In his opening address outlining the purpose of the meeting Minister Mchunu stated, “The main thing we want to share with you is that we have been aware that there is a water problem here and we have heard your cries. Amanzi (water) has been declared by the Republic of South Africa as a human right. The slogan of the Department says water is life. Water is an all-rounder. You are not far from the Loskop Dam and have been waiting for water for too long. We have taken a decision to implement the project to bring water from the Loskop Dam. We are here because of your plight. We are going to start the project to bring water to you. We have decided that the project will start soon and will take 18 months, not 18 years”.

Minister Mchunu also emphasised that the project must not be associated with corruption. “The money for the project will be guarded. There will be a Steering Committee headed by the Ministry. This will be a political steering committee and there will also be a technical steering committee headed by the Director-General of the Department which will report to the political steering committee. The first meeting of the steering committee will be held on 19 July 2022”, he said.

In his remarks, Deputy Minister Mahlobo stated that during the working session in the province in December last year, the Premier was asked for a priority project as there are so many challenges in the province and the Premier responded by nominating this project.

Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane welcomed the Minister’s intervention and committed the Mpumalanga Province to support the project and ensure that no corruption takes place in the project. “This has always been a pain to us. People of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality have been crying for water. Finally, the project is starting, and the people will get water”, she said.



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Lastly, Minister Mchunu informed the community stakeholders that the closing date for the submission of tender documents is 15 July 2022 and then the project will start soon after the appointment of the contractor. The Minister also informed the stakeholders that the project phases will be implemented in parallel to ensure its speedy implementation and completion to ensure that people have access to water.

Themba Khoza

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