



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mchunu engages Nelson Mandela Bay residents on water issues

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Minister Senzo Mchunu has assured Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan residents that his department, with the municipality and other stakeholders, will do everything in its power to ensure that water systems in the area do not fail.

He made this commitment during his two-day visit to Nelson Mandela Bay on Saturday, 04 June 2022, with a delegation that included high ranking officials such as the Director-General, Dr Sean Phillips.

Minister Mchunu held meetings with various stakeholders such as Amatola Water, Municipal officials, Labour and Business Sector at Radisson Blu Hotel to chart a way forward and find lasting solutions.

A number of concerns raised by community members included but not limited to; water leaks, sewage spillages, delivery of water tankers, construction of a desalination plant to serve the Municipality and other neighbouring areas and drilling of communal boreholes to ensure that they have access to water.

Addressing communities in both KwaNobuhle and Booyens Park, Minister Mchunu unambiguously made an undertaking that “day zero” will be averted, this comes after the Department intervened through section 63 of the Water Services Act, 108 of 1997 at Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and appointed Amatola Water as an implementing agent.

“We are here to say down with day zero because water is life and sanitation is dignity, our undertaking to you is that we are going to attend to your concerns timeously, we are going to make a difference” Minister Mchunu said.

In addition Minister Mchunu humbly implored communities to report all water leaks at their ward councillor’s office because this will go a long way in as far as avoiding water shortages.

“Please assist us in trying to avert day zero, we are literally going to be closing up all those water leaks, we will go hunting for those leaks and each and every drop that leaks from the pipes will be fixed.

As a parting shot Minister Mchunu emphasise that South Africa is generally a water scarce country and the fact that it has not rained seriously for a period of seven years at Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is exacerbating the situation. He further pleaded with the community to utilise water sparingly.

Fhatuwani Tshikulumela

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY

