

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mchunu intervenes in Eastern Cape water crisis

15 March 2022

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu accompanied by his deputy ministers Mr David Mahlobo and Ms Dikeledi Magadzi visited Gqeberha in Eastern Cape on a two-day working session from 10-11 March 2022.

The aim of the working session was to devise means of bringing permanent solutions to the water crisis in the province.

The sessions kicked off with a meeting between the Ministry, Eastern Cape Water and Sanitation Provincial leadership, Amatola Water Board and South African Municipal Workers Union in Eastern Cape. Amongst issues discussed was the functionality of the Amatola Water Board where disputes have led to protest actions by staff which have hindered services to the people.

Minister Mchunu was also joined by the Business Sector in the province to ensure that they comprehend the gravity of the difficulties facing the province and to strengthen partnerships.

On day two, the Minister held meetings with Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, and Sarah Baartman District Municipality officials with a view to come up with long lasting plans to address water challenges in their respective areas.

Minister Mchunu said “water is a very sensitive and emotional matter, our thrust is to articulate extensively about water challenges, nourish and strengthen partnerships. Let us do everything in our power to ensure that communities get water in 2022. One of the reasons we are failing to provide adequate water is being unable to execute our duties accordingly and with integrity, issues of corruption and mismanagement are very alarming”.

Minister Mchunu also led a site visit, to the Nooitgedacht Water Treatment Works just outside Gqeberha. The plant is currently on Phase 3 of construction which is at 99% completion and will serve the residents of Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

Minister Mchunu says he does not expect any delays regarding the completion of the plant, after it had been delayed for two years due to various reasons.

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He reiterated the department's mandate to ensure water safety and security to the country, ensuring that every household has a running tap.

"The goal of the Department is to increase water security in the country overall but not only that but quality water in a sustainable way. This thing called water crisis is going. We are here to face up to whatever challenge", concluded Minister Mchunu.

Lameki Jumba