



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Mahlobo hands over Ministerial intervention sub-projects and commends progress to resolve water and sanitation challenges in Lekwa Local Municipality

11 June 2025

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister, Mr David Mahlobo has expressed his satisfaction on the progress made to implement water and sanitation ministerial interventions to address long-standing challenges of sewer spillages, and water supply and quality in Lekwa Local Municipality.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo together with senior officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu handed over completed sanitation projects to the Executive Mayor of Lekwa Local Municipality Cllr Sifiso Mngomezulu. He further visited the Standerton Water Treatment Works (WTW) to assess progress on its refurbishment to return it to full optimisation to be able to produce quality drinking water.

Lekwa Municipality has experienced infrastructure failure for both water and sanitation that resulted into excessive sewer spillages, exposing the communities to health and safety hazards. The spillages also contaminated the Vaal River, prompting DWS to impose directives to the municipality.

The situation required immediate attention and DWS intervened and identified intervention projects within Lekwa Municipality, and Gert Sibande District Municipality was appointed in 2023 to be the implementing agent of the projects worth R350 Million funded by DWS through its Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG).

The intervention projects were a response to address ageing infrastructure, operational inefficiencies, and lack of access to water services in certain areas of the municipality. The projects entailed the unblocking and replacing of collapsed sewer manholes and realignment of damaged sewer pipes that caused sewer overflows throughout the municipality.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo handed over Steijn and Taljaard Sewer pumpstations to Lekwa Municipality. The pumpstations will ensure that sewer from Ward 3 in Standerton, Meyerville and the surrounding settlements is pumped to Standerton Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) for further processing.

“This municipality was battling and could not executive its mandated responsibility to provide basic water services and ensure that people are not exposed to running sewer in the streets. However, as part of broader government intervention, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation intervened to address the challenges. We had to pull all our resources working with the

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mpumalanga Provincial Government to resolve the issues that has plagued this municipality for a long time. The District Mayor had to assemble a very capable team to deal with the issues that were mainly about the operational deficiencies of the infrastructure. As a result, the Ministerial intervention has yielded the results, and we are confident that the municipality will continue to improve the lives of the people of Lekwa,” said Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo said the refurbishment and upgrading of the sewer pumpstations has also contributed to the resolution of excessive sewer spillages within the municipality. He said the upgrades will also limit a negative impact on the environment and curb pollution of the Vaal River and improve its ecology.

The project of refurbishment and upgrade of the Standerton Water Treatment Works is currently under way and progressing well. The water treatment works currently has a design capacity of supplying 37 megalitres of water per day (ml/d), but the upgrades will improve its water supply to 60 ml/d. Civil and mechanical works are at more than 60 per cent complete, and the project is anticipated to be operational towards the end of October this year.

In his engagement with community stakeholders, Deputy Minister Mahlobo called on the community to work together with the municipality. “Ward 3 was very dirty, sewage was flowing in the streets. There was no life, no dignity. We intervened and put in money. Today, as I’m here on behalf of the Minister and President, I see there is good infrastructure of high standards”, he said.

Mr Lucky Nkosi, a community member from Ward 7 appreciated the Department’s interventions and progress made so far. “We want to send words of appreciation to Deputy Minister Mahlobo in that when we cry as his children, he listens. As the Deputy Minister has said that the problems of Lekwa will be addressed and sorted by us the people of Lekwa. No outside person can solve the problems for us but they can advise and assist. Let us work together, help and support each other, and let us be patient with each other as people of Lekwa”, he stated.

Themba Khoza

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA