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Deputy Minister Mahlobo launches new utility to lead Emfuleni's water and sanitation recovery

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The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr David Mahlobo, unveiled a major and decisive intervention to restore full functionality to the Emfuleni Local Municipality water and sanitation systems. This intervention was anchored by the launch of the Vaal Corporation Water Utility, a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will take full responsibility for managing, operating and rehabilitating all water and sanitation services in the municipality

The SPV began with a partnership between Rand Water Services and Emfuleni Local Municipality. The two parties agreed to form a partnership to improve water and sanitation services after the municipality had been under administration for several years due to service delivery challenges. The utility will assume full responsibility for all service systems related to water and sanitation, to ensure basic and sustainable service delivery to residents and all stakeholders.

Speaking during launch, Deputy Minister Mahlobo called against the vandalism of infrastructure and for the municipality to enhance its operations and maintenance of water infrastructure. He urged residents to safeguard public assets, report wrongdoing and collaborate with the teams deployed across Emfuleni as the Department and its partners work to rebuild the system.

Furthermore, he assured the residents of Emfuleni that indeed the government is present, responsive, and committed to turning the tide.

"As we begin this new chapter, we are rebuilding Emfuleni pipe by pipe and pump station by pump station. This SPV is not a bailout or a temporary fix. It is a turning point and an investment in dignity, stability and long-term development," he said.

The Deputy Minister spoke with conviction to the people of Emfuleni, saying: "To the people of Emfuleni, this is your victory. Your voices, your frustrations your resilience brought us to this moment. But partnership must continue. Government can build systems, but communities sustain them. We call on you to protect infrastructure, report illegal connections, promote responsible water use and work with the teams on the ground," he said.

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation has reaffirmed that the launch of the Vaal Corporation Water Utility represents a clear demonstration of a capable, responsive and committed state. It reflects government's determination to ensure that no community is left behind and that reliable water and sanitation services become a certainty for the people of Emfuleni, and throughout the country.

Nthabiseng Dhlamini