



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Deputy Minister Mahlobo satisfied with operations at Empuluzi Water Treatment Works

17 April 2026

Deputy Minister David Mahlobo led a multi-stakeholder engagement session and undertook an oversight visit to the Empuluzi Water Treatment Works which is part of the Empuluzi Bulk Water Scheme in Empuluzi in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality on 15 April 2026.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu and the acting Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Local Municipality, Cllr Snana Dhlamini.

A report was provided to the stakeholders on the Empuluzi Bulk Water Supply Scheme project which aims to ensure reliable supply of adequate quality water and improve water security. The project involves the refurbishment and upgrading of various components, including water treatment works, bulk pipelines, storage reservoirs, as well as the construction of an off-channel dam, an abstraction weir, and raw water pipelines along with associated infrastructure to water treatment works.

The project is divided into seven phases with phases 3 to 7 which includes the water treatment plant, bulk pipelines, and reservoirs already completed and operational. The outstanding phases 1 and 2, which involve the construction of the Empuluzi Dam are currently planned for implementation in the current financial year. The project is funded through the RBIG with a total cost of approximately R1.7 billion.

During the stakeholder engagement, stakeholders expressed appreciation for the impact of the bulk water project and the improvement in water supply and quality of water produced from the upgraded water treatment plant. They confirmed that they are receiving clean water where there is infrastructure. The stakeholders also proposed that the government consider boreholes for those areas experiencing challenges. The stakeholders also welcomed the planned construction of the Empuluzi Dam which is expected to ensure a consistent supply of water, especially as some areas currently receive water twice a week.

After the engagement with the stakeholders, Deputy Minister Mahlobo accompanied by the executive mayors undertook an oversight visit to the Empuluzi Water Treatment Works to assess the plant and operations. He expressed satisfaction and commended the municipality for the way the plant was well operated and maintained. He acknowledged the relief the Plant has brought to the community in terms of quality water provision.

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“The Plant looks to be functioning well. It has given relief and you can see that it is well operated. I am very pleased. But the long term issue of water security in Albert Luthuli, that decision that we need to we need to proceed with the dam, we need to conclude the preliminary work. Let’s get the contractor on the ground. People are very happy with the work”, he said.

Lastly, the Deputy Minister acknowledged and commended the collaborative efforts of all spheres of government in addressing water challenges in the Gert Sibande District and the Mpumalanga Province. He also commended the officials for the work they are doing in making a positive difference and impact on communities. “The relationship between you as professionals and officials in government across makes the job much easier. It makes a difference, you help people. Your work is making a difference”, he said in conclusion

**Themba Khoza**

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