



INTERNET ARTICLE

Government had to intervene to restore water accessibility in Giyani – Minister

29 October 2014

It is a responsibility of every well-functioning state to intervene whenever there is crisis, be it involving water supply, electricity or any other services which may impact negatively on communities.

This is the response of the Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, during her interview with Capricorn FM Radio on the eve of the launch of the Giyani Water Treatment Plant, on Friday 31 October 2014.

According to the Minister, the intervention came about because the people of Giyani complained to President Jacob Zuma about their inability to access reliable water. “As Minister in charge of a Department entrusted with the responsibility of building and protecting water resources in South Africa, I was mandated by the President to come to Giyani and look for ways of quenching the thirst out of Giyani residents. I came and did exactly what I was instructed to do by President Zuma,” said Minister Mokonyane.

She pointed out that as a result of DWS’ intervention, Giyani’s 27 villages now receive daily water supply; about 23 villages depend on boreholes for supply of water; the 6 boreholes of the Nkhensani Hospital have all been refurbished and are all operational, the hospital’s 10 000 litre water tank was replaced and that its internal pipe reticulation and its leaking taps and toilets have been fixed.

The Minister was responding to a series of questions, which included the following:

Does this mean that the Giyani water crisis is over?

“Rome was never built in one year. The intervention that I introduced in October this year is beginning to bear fruits and that is why we are calling upon residents of Giyani to come and see, and enjoy the developments. All we are saying to our people is - give us a chance to bring services to you and do not be misled by those who come to you with unfounded, baseless and malicious accusations.”



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

How is the department going to ensure that the Giyani Water Treatment Works and the boreholes are not vandalised?

"This is a battle that the department or the municipality cannot win alone. We need the community to help us to look after these water resources. In all instances, the people who vandalise our infrastructure are known to the community. My plea on this one is let us report those responsible for vandalism, even if they are our relatives and, by so doing, our water resources will be safe".

Do you have any plans regarding illegal connections that continue impeding service delivery to communities?

"It has come to our attention that communities are connecting illegally on the main pipeline that is supposed to feed community reservoirs and, as a result, water does not get into the reservoir because the pressure becomes minimal. We always find out that a reservoir meant to benefit three villages ends up benefiting only one village because of illegal connections on the main pipeline."

When the Minister visited Giyani on 14 August 2014, she appointed Lepelle Northern Water to oversee the project implementation within Giyani Local Municipality.

The scope of the project entailed upgrading of Giyani WTW from 30 Ml/d to 36.7 Ml/d.

Giyani Regional Water Scheme has seven major bulk pipelines, which supply 55 villages within the scheme supply area.

Lucia Sefara & Ike Motsapi

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Media Liaison Director Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2942

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www.dwa.gov.za



DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2014

PLACE: GIYANI

TIME: 10H00 – 14H00

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR-MEC PUBLIC WORKS: MR AZWINNDINI NDOU

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
PART ONE		
10H00-10H20	Meet and Greet	Giyani SAPS
10H20-10H30	Travel to first site	Bon'wane Village
PART TWO		
10H30-11H00	Opening Household Tap	Bon'wane Village
11H00-11H20	Travel to second site	Giyani Water Treatment Works
11H20-11H50	Unveiling of the Plaque	Giyani Water Treatment Works
11H50-12H10	Travel to third site	New Nkhensani Hospital
12H10-12H30	Launching of Refurbished Boreholes	New Nkhensani Hospital
12H30-12H40	Travel to Public Meeting	Giyani Stadium
PART THREE		
Giyani Stadium		
	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
12H40-12H45	Welcome Address:	Acting Premier: Mr Rudolph Phala
12H45-13H00	Introduction of the President	Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Nomvula Mokonyane
13H00-13H55	Community / Public Address	Honourable President: Mr Jacob Zuma
13H55-14H00	Vote of Thanks	Mopani Executive Mayor: Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale
14H00	Lunch /Departure/ Entertainment	All