



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Vaal Gamagara water quality control laboratory and water scheme bring joy to Northern Capers

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There was jubilation abound at Deelpoortshoop in Northern Cape when Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete accompanied by other dignitaries officially opened the Vaal Gamagara water quality control laboratory (lab) and launched the refurbishing and upgrading of the Vaal Gamagara Water Scheme.

The elation was resultant from Minister Mokonyane's knockout announcement that the Vaal Gamagara water quality control laboratory is operational and the water scheme which had been completed in 1976 will be refurbished and upgraded to the tune of R18 billion. The project will include the construction of a 430km pipeline which will run from Deelpoortshoop to Black Rock.

Dignitaries such as Deputy Ministers, Mayors, Sedibeng Water Board Chairperson and management as well as government senior managers graced the opening of the lab and walked about inside it. Young specialist professionals have commenced their duties at the lab that was completed in April 2016. The lab personnel gave brief explanations on what they do during the information tour.

Previously, Sedibeng Water used to perform a few routine analyses at Balkfontein laboratory in the Free State as it did not have an accredited quality control laboratory in the Northern Cape. The lab is envisaged to assist the municipalities in Northern Cape achieve the Blue Drop/Green Drop certification standards which they have been struggling with. Municipalities in the province will now be able to identify and address water quality and waste water effluent issues quickly and efficiently.

The Vaal Gamagara laboratory will consist of four sections; namely the instrumentation, wet chemistry, sewage and microbiology. Sedibeng Water plans to get the lab accredited with the South African National Accreditation Systems (SANAS). This will make it the first lab in the province to obtain the SANAS endorsement.

A sod-turning ceremony to launch the Vaal Gamagara water scheme followed the opening of the lab. The Minister's entourage then proceeded to a public ceremony that had more than 3 000 community members ecstatic at the announcement of the good news about the lab and scheme revamp and improvement.

Minister Mokonyane said it was apt to dedicate the launch of this mammoth project in June to a giant of the youth struggle Solomon Mahlangu. She announced to loud cheers that at least 1 500 jobs will be created during the course of the project. "We require commitment to those who will be employed in the project, no strikes and destruction of infrastructure," she declared.

Six municipalities of Dikgatlong, Kgatelopele, Tsantsabane, Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana and Joe Morolong together with the iron ore and manganese mining operations between Kathu and Hotazel including 22 villages will benefit from the Vaal Gamagara bulk water supply scheme up to 2030. "This project is significant for the economy of the Northern Cape province," the Minister stated. In addition, three boreholes are set to be drilled at Danielskuil, Groenwater and Hotazel to augment water supplied from the Vaal River.



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The Minister promises that the Department of Water and Sanitation and Sedibeng Water will work together with the provincial government and CoGTA to ensure that the project succeeds.

Nkhabe Makolomakoa