



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane launches the R15 million Jericho Rural Bulk Water Scheme

1 July 2016

Jericho residents could not contain their excitement over the launch of the R15 million Jericho Rural Bulk Water Supply by Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Premier Supra Mahumapelo in North West last Friday.

The streets of Jericho, an under-developed rural area in Madibeng, was abuzz with jubilation as the masses flocked to the local sportsfield to listen to the two leaders on how water will be reticulated to their yards. The Madibeng Executive Mayor, Jostina Mothibe and her Councillors also attended the event.

Selected families, mostly pensioners, were given custom-made wheelbarrows with containers to make it easy for them to fetch water from communal taps. The launch marked the completion of Phase Two of the Jericho Rural Bulk Water Supply through which water is pumped from a reservoir to yard taps.

Minister Mokonyane appealed to locals to patrol their area at night to protect water infrastructure from being vandalized.

“We are bringing this water to you today for you to take ownership of it. It’s about time that you protect the infrastructure that the government brings to you. We don’t want to see you taking to the streets tomorrow claiming that you don’t have potable water,” Mokonyane told residents.

Keitumetsi Baloyi, a pensioner who benefited from the water programme by having a tap installed in her yard, thanked Mokonyane and Mahumapelo for bringing water to closer. This would go a long way towards helping her to cook for her family in time and to do their washing at home instead of at the river.

In February 2015 the Minister Mokonyane issued a directive to Magalies Water in accordance with section 41(1)(a)(ii) of Water Services Act, 1997 to provide bridging finance to start-up implementation of the emergency projects in Majakaneng Village, a few kilometres from Jericho.

A total of R15.8 million was made available as a bridging finance to address the challenges in the reticulation system. Subsequently, a Community Water Forum (CWF) was established primarily to ensure that on-going community meetings are taking place to keep them informed of the project development.



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To date water supply reaches more than 83% coverage in Majakaneng. In sections that are not connected to the distribution networks, water is supplied through 31 jojo tanks that are connected to the repaired reticulation lines.

A Second Phase Business Plan was submitted to the department and a budget of R4.8m was approved. The project entailed the equipping of 4 boreholes and construction of rising main to the reservoir, refurbishment

The refurbishment of water treatment works is in line with the upgrading of the water treatment works with an additional production capacity of 20 megalitres a day.

Phase Two, which includes mechanical and electrical components, will follow thereafter. The electrical contractor has been appointed and the progress is at 79% .The entire upgrade for the Brits WTW is envisaged to be completed by 2017/18 financial year.

Chairman of the Jericho Water and Sanitation Forum, Moses Seokane, said Jericho residents were grateful for the water project. His forum has been at the forefront of agitating for water reticulation in the area for years, He said.

“For the first time in as many years we are having tap water in our yards. This is a dream come true for our impoverished area.”

By Themba Khumalo