



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Notable progress on WWTP in the Free State

13 September 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation today, 13 September 2016, took the media on a tour of two waste water treatment plants, in the Free State Province that have seen notable progress regarding their operations.

The tour was to inform the media on the progress made on the Waste Water Treatment Plants following the emergency intervention by the department to invest over R300 million to refurbish semi and non-functional WWTW in Free State, North West, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Gauteng, ensuring optimal operations.

Both Bothaville and Viljoenskoon WWTW in the Free State were visited and the work on both is 90% complete. They are envisaged to be fully functional by December 2016.

Both plants combined were allocated a total of R28 million and the refurbishments made have not been the only benefits but socio-economic benefits have been notable as well.

The Bothaville WWTW has a capacity of 8.5 mega litres and is currently receiving 6 mega litres; it serves the local community and industries in the area and has seen a massive improvement since the department's intervention.

Speaking to Elias Hlongwane who is an operator on the plant he said "Before the intervention by the Department of Water and Sanitation, it was almost impossible to work at the plant. The water was very green and the place was smelly. However, since the intervention the plant has been functional and the water we discharge is disinfected."

Before the intervention, the Viljoenskroon WWTP received raw water and also discharged raw water because the plant was not functional and therefore not able to produce disinfected water.

Since the intervention both plants have employed between 6-10 skilled youth from the local areas to operate and maintain the plant.

Once the refurbishments have been completed, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane will commission the plants and officially hand them over to the municipalities. Regular inspections and support to the municipalities will be provided to ensure that the plants remain functional.

**Mbali Mabena**