



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Upgrading of Waste Water Treatment Works in Qalabotjha scores early success**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS') emergency intervention to repair and upgrade water and waste water treatment works is notching significant successes to replace ageing infrastructure.

Earlier this year the department announced that it had aside R300 million to repair malfunctioning entities which are affecting its efforts regarding service delivery.

On Thursday 01 September, during a site visit by DWS officials and community members in Qalabotjha, Villiers in the Free State, they got a first-hand experience of the work that is being done when they inspected the progress at the site.

The Qalabotjha Waste Water Treatment Works is one of the sites that were identified for refurbishment and upgrading as it has not been serviced in a long time.

The treatment works currently being refurbished is servicing both Villiers Qalabotjha.

The rationale behind the visit was to understand the work done by the department in making sure that rivers are not polluted and to deal with any challenges that may hamper the completion of the refurbishment.

DWS Vaal Proto Catchment Management Agency's Mokgale Matseba said even though the refurbishments are continuing the work that has been done so far shows that the department is serious about service delivery, and also in making sure that the river that passes next to the treatment works is not polluted.

"It is very important that all the sources of water stay pollution free as we are still struggling with drought as a country," Matseba said, adding that is only through refurbishing and maintaining these treatment works that the department will be able to achieve the goal of having cleaner rivers which will in turn provide communities with clean water.



## water & sanitation

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Thanks to the continuing upgrades, work opportunities have been created for the locals resulting in the employment of youth to refurbish the treatment works.

Currently, four young people that include one female are employed at the project. This has dealt a blow to the intractable challenge of unemployment and the youths are now in a position to assist their families.

**Malope Matlou**