



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### EMAKHAZENI WWTW REFURBISHMENT BEGINS

14 April 2016

The contractors appointed to refurbish the waste water treatment works in Waterval Boven and Machadodorp in Emakhazeni Local Municipality were officially handed over to the communities by the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Executive Council of Emakhazeni led by the Executive Mayor, Councilor XS Ngwenya in sod turning ceremonies on 14 April 2016. The contractor for the Belfast waste water treatment works will be handed over on 18 April 2016. The refurbishment projects are funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation through the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP).

The Department of Water and Sanitation exercises water oversight responsibilities as derived from legislative provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and Water Services Act (Act 108 of 1997). In discharging its oversight function the department has been alerted of waste water management challenges in the towns of Belfast, Waterval Boven and Machadodorp located within the Emakhazeni Local Municipality under the Nkangala District Municipality. The nature of the challenges poses a risk to the integrity of local water resources both to residents of the said towns and downstream water users.

Mr Gert Lombard, the Waterval Boven, ward 07 ward committee member thanked the department for making funds available for the project as sanitation is dignity. He further appreciated the municipality's efforts in getting the department's funding for the project as ward committee members were receiving a lot of calls from the community regarding waste water management challenges in the area.

Ms Sonto Malaza, ward committee member representing wards 05 and 06 in Machadodorp commended the department and the municipality for the project as it will assist the community in terms of infrastructure development and job opportunities.

Mr Doctor Makhubele representing the Department of Water and Sanitation pledged the department's support to the municipality to ensure that the waste water treatment plants are compliant as it has been seen that the entire municipality was experiencing challenges in



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terms of waste water management. He also encouraged the community to conserve water, especially as we approach winter and the country is facing severe drought.

In his address, the Executive Mayor thanked the department for coming to the municipality's rescue in terms of funding the project as the issue of infrastructure is a serious challenge in the municipality. He encouraged the communities to take care of the infrastructure and prevent vandalism of the infrastructure for the benefit of all and future generations. He also encouraged the communities to pay for services to ensure that the municipality is able to maintain the infrastructure.

The refurbishment and proper maintenance of the waste water treatment works will ensure that the water resources are protected as there will be no sewer spillages into the rivers and streams and also prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases.

**Themba Khoza**