



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS' Jericho water infrastructure refurbishment intervention brings supply near realisation

09 February 2016

Having to buy water from commercial sellers or other villagers who have boreholes could be a thing of the past for Sophia Mogatla and some of the community members of Jericho village as the last phase of a project that will enable people who were not previously supplied to eventually get access to water begins.

The last time Mogatla's section had water from the taps was late last year. "I am happy and cannot wait for the project to end as it will make our lives easier and better. We have been buying water from the trucks and neighbours who own boreholes. We later got relief when water tankers were made available," Mogatla said at a community meeting that was recently organised to give an update on the R15 million Phase 2 of the infrastructure refurbishment project.

Magalies Water in conjunction with Madibeng Municipality as the overseer has kick-started the project which will put in pipelines, reticulation, equip three boreholes to add to the existing five which are functional and connect to the existing network and reservoir until the end of April 2016. The main purpose is to get water pumped into the main reservoir which will then be directed to the connected network and be able to extensively provide more people in the area with water.

Residents who did not have access to water supply are waiting with abated breath to benefit from this venture. Over 30 will gain employment from this project. In addition, some Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in Jericho will get a 30% share of the pie (R3, 6 million) from the contract implementation as sub-contractors.

"It does not matter even if I do not get the opportunity of employment in the project, I am just happy at the thought of ultimately accessing water with ease, said Lorraine Mogatla.

Some sections of Jericho village have been struggling with water shortages due to the overloading of the existing water supply network. The inefficient functioning of the network was caused by among others illegal connections, vandalism and increased water demand.

Meanwhile, in December 2015, the Water and Sanitation Forum of Jericho disconnected more than 75 illegal connections from the system. According to the Forum Chairperson Moses Seokane, this resulted in the improvement of the water pressure and some villagers who had been cut off from the supply system receiving water afterwards.

Madibeng Municipality has been alleviating the water shortage with water tankers.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Simon Seshoka of DWS Head Office urged community members to report illegal connections and inconsiderate high volume water users such as brick-makers to the Water and Sanitation Forum of Jericho, Kgosi or his Council, political Councillor, Madibeng Municipality or the Police. "This is a serious matter, you have heard how they impact on others having access to water. This is an infringement of others' Constitutional right," Seshoka concluded.

The intervention by the department in Jericho is one of the many all over the country whereby municipalities receive grants to refurbish previous erstwhile DWAF schemes and manage these going forward. The Master Plan presented by the Jericho main contractor at the end of the contract will inform the municipality and the department on required expansion or upgrading of infrastructure in future.