



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Water is a challenge for most South African communities – President Zuma**

3 November 2014

President Jacob Zuma and his entourage including the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, were warmly welcomed to Giyani Stadium, Limpopo on Friday, 31 October 2014. The residents were overly excited because of the good news they were expecting to be delivered to them by the President and entourage.

President Zuma did not disappoint them. He gave them what they wanted to hear but in essence what was on the ground. He told them that water problems in the area are now a thing of the past.

President Zuma, who was addressing one of his largest-ever crowds who filled the stadium to record capacity, indicated to the audience that the provision of water is a serious challenge faced by communities in various parts of the country.

He said the problem for this is that South Africa is a water-scarce country particularly due to broader changes which are caused by climate change, global warming and desertification. "It is not only the province of Limpopo which faces water shortages challenge, but many others in the country face the same fate and, where there is shortage of the resource, sanitation is also poor and consequently, health is affected," said the President.

The President stressed that there is a particularly acute shortage of water in the Mopani District of Limpopo and that the scale of dependence on boreholes illustrates the gravity of this challenge, even in the hospitals. "In other areas the biggest challenge is ageing infrastructure. We have for example expanded water infrastructure, such as building dams and refurbishing and improving old infrastructure to better water supply. We were here recently in Limpopo to open the De Hoop Dam. We have opened new dams in other provinces as well," President Zuma added.

The President pointed out that "as government, we have made various interventions to deal with these challenges in the country." Government has increased the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to enable municipalities to increase their scales of service delivery.

Government has continued to focus on providing water throughout the country. "In the past five months, we have attended to water and sanitation challenges in places such as Bloemhof, Ngobi and Ngaka Modiri Molema District in the North West Province, Makana District Municipality in the Eastern Cape, Hobhouse in the Free State and Umkhanyakude District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal among others. It has come to mind that the rural areas in this part of the country areas are suffering, particularly when you consider that half of the boreholes drilled are for one or other reasons not working. Generally, when you look at the statistics compiled through research and site visits, all five local municipalities under the Mopani District Municipality have been experiencing serious water challenges," President Zuma added.

President Zuma stressed that government has now mounted massive efforts to improve the provision of water in this area through, among others, the Giyani Water Treatment Works (GWTW) which is 98% refurbished.



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The scope of the GWTW project includes the construction of an additional 6,7 megalitres per day capacity Water Treatment Works. It also includes the refurbishment of the existing 30 megalitres Water Treatment Works to increase the supply to 36, 7 megalitres per day.

The GWTW is part of the 26 Water Treatment Works (WTW) which supplies the Mopani District.

The President concluded that government is putting supplementary measures in place to expand the water supply. The DWS has requested the Lepelle Northern Water Board to assist, as well improve supply from the Middle Letaba Dam and the Nsami Dam. "In the longer term there are also plans to source water from various other dams. I will always seek updates on the state of water supply from Minister Mokonyane and Limpopo Premier Solly Mathabathe," President Zuma stressed.

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**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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