



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

31 JULY 2015

#### **Water scarcity in Giyani soon to be history**

*The Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation was in Mopani District Municipality on 23 July 2015 on an oversight visit on water and sanitation intervention projects and was impressed by the progress made. According to the members of the Portfolio Committee, the shortage of drinking water and proper sanitation could soon be things of the past if the stakeholders continue working together to ensure that they collectively avail water to the villagers.*

*The Portfolio Committee's visit to Mopani District was a response to a call made by the President in 2014 that by the end of September 2015 the Giyani Wastewater Treatment Plant should be up and running. Also, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane visited Giyani in August last year to have a first-hand experience of the challenges faced by the villagers on a daily basis regarding water and sanitation services. From her interaction with the people of Giyani she ordered that urgent measures be implemented to address water service delivery challenges in areas around Giyani.*

*Last year, out of 55 villages in Giyani, only 28 had access to bulk water, whereas 27 villages relied solely on boreholes. Water projects were moving at a slow pace worsened by frequent system failures affecting water supply to Giyani Town and surrounding villages. Other challenges with water supply included the stalling of the main booster pump station, loss of water throughout the system due to ageing infrastructure, and inadequate supplementary supply because of dysfunctional boreholes.*

*To date, the town of Giyani and 42 of its surrounding villages has a stable supply of water, including villages such as Siyandani, which had not had water in their lines for the past 6 years. The Ntsami Water Treatment Works has been refurbished and upgraded, with supply having increased to 36, 7 million liters of water a day. "What we are hearing from the residents is that they are satisfied and happy with the progress made through water and sanitation projects in their communities", said Mlungisi Johnson, chairperson of the Water and Sanitation Portfolio Committee.*

*The Portfolio Committee also visited Giyani Waste-Water Treatment Works (WWTW) to observe the work done and were even more impressed by the technology that was used to refurbish the plant. After its completion in September 2015, Giyani WWTW is set to benefit about 15 000 households. "The Department of Water and Sanitation has appointed Lepelle Northern Water as the implementing agent working with Mopani District Municipality to reticulate to villages where there are extensions, and we are promising that with the support that we receive from Minister Mokonyane and Premier Mathabatha the project will be completed soon", said Makoma Makhurupetja, Limpopo's MEC for Cooperative Governance, Housing and Traditional Affairs.*



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*The Portfolio Committee highlighted that the country loses about R7 billion due to water that is unaccounted for as a result of leaks. The Committee advised the Mopani District municipality to invest in the maintenance of its infrastructure. The committee also condemned the theft of water and vandalism of infrastructure and said that strong action should be taken against the culprits as their dealings cause major service delivery setbacks. "Credit must be given where it is due, and we are glad as today we are witnessing the progress made in Mopani District and that all the stakeholders are working together to ensure that the ordinary person in Giyani has access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation", said DA' shadow minister for water and sanitation, Nosimo Balindlela.*

**Maribe Velly Raesibe**