



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Emfuleni LM and Rand Water sign agreement to avert water throttle**

01 December 2017

The Emfuleni Local Municipality and Rand Water have shown what the envisaged agreement to pay the Municipality's water bill and stave off the looming water throttling that could have affected the supply of water in the municipality entails.

The agreement, which was signed on 01 December 2017, at the Sedibeng District Municipality in Vereeniging, represents a break with the culture of non-payment and commitment towards paying for services.

The agreement was signed between the Municipality's Manager Oupa Nkoane and Rand Water's Chief Executive Percy Sechemane.

Emfuleni Local Municipality is one of 30 municipalities across the country that owes the Department of Water and Sanitation over R10 billion in unpaid water services.

The signing was attended by Minister of Water and Sanitation, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, Gauteng Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC, Paul Mashatile, Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality Councillor Jacob Khawe, Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality Councillor B Modisakeng and Executive Mayor of Midvaal Local Municipality Councillor Bongani Baloyi.

The municipality has committed to pay R150 million by the 11 December 2017 and make further instalments of R11 million per month going forward.

Making a presentation before the signing the agreement, Emfuleni Local Municipality Manager, Mr Nkoana said his municipality was committed to pay its debt to Rand Water and provide the much-needed service to the public.

Nkoane said there were concrete efforts that were currently being undertaken to improve revenue collection which will enable the municipality to discharge its debt, reiterating that the municipality would install control meters for households.

"All bulk accounts will be prioritised first for payment of current account and any arrears agreement in line with the signed payment plan. We will also create a Revenue Management Task Team which will sit weekly to monitor revenue collection", Nkoane said.

He said his municipality has started a partnership with Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) to develop a scientific determination of water use efficiency and develop an integrated water demand management plan.

Nkoane said their efforts would be anchored on the pillars of improved revenue collection, water losses reduction, reduction in expenditure and create a credible indigent plan.



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Minister Mokonyane said the final signing of the agreement between the municipality and the Rand Water was a result of cooperative governance, emphasising that as different levels of government they were collectively enjoined by the Constitution to deliver water and sanitation services to the public.

**Hosia Sithole**