



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshwete visits Makana LM to resolve water challenges

15 June 2018

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pam Tshwete, visited the Makana Local Municipality in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape to gain a first-hand experience of the challenges that are facing the municipality with a view to resolving them.

The visit, which was prompted by a crises caused by water pollution and challenges of sanitation, took place on 14 June 2018.

The Deputy Minister's visit was to assess the water situation in the area after community members raised concerns about the quality of tap water.

During the visit Deputy Minister Tshwete interacted with councilors which were led by the municipality's mayor, Ms Nomhle Gaga.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Tshwete said: "The purpose of this visit is to listen and understand the water situation in this municipality," emphasising that the responsibility of the Department was bulk water supply while reticulation fell within the responsibility of the municipality.

However, she said, it was her Department's concern as the custodian of water to visit areas where there were problems and to find solutions.

The Department provided budget to the Makana Local Municipality to deal with issues of bulk water supply and has the responsibility to monitor progress.

Deputy Minister Tshwete encouraged councilors to have continuous engagement with communities and to keep them updated on the development regarding projects in their areas so as to avoid complaints.

A community member, Lumkile Ndawo, said: "The colour of the water in this municipality shows that the quality is compromised. Sewer spillage is all over Grahamstown and will end up in the river. The water in areas such as Joza has mud in it".



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Ndawo expressed concerns and worry about the health and hygiene of the public, saying some members of the community have experienced stomach problems.

Ms Gaga told the media that communities reported the problem that water from the taps was not clean and the municipality investigated the matter.

Ms Gaga assured the residents that water quality has now improved and that, as the municipality, they were going to monitor the situation continuously.

“The Department is planning to assist in this water crisis but presently there are no funds available. However, in our work with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Gogta), we will devise a plan to solve our water situation,” Deputy Minister Tshwete concluded.

Lameki Jumba