



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng DWS hands over a reservoir to Emfuleni Municipality to address water losses

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The Gauteng Region's Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) handed over a reservoir to the Emfuleni Municipality in a bid to curb water losses which have been prevalent in the municipality for years.

The handover took place on Friday, 07 September 2018 in Vanderbijlpark where the reservoir is located.

Speaking on half of the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Basic Services, Ward 25 Councillor Bheki Ntsele, said the Constitution obligated the municipality to provide basic services to the people.

Councillor Ntsele said the reservoir would ensure that there was no situation where they were unable to provide those services in terms of potable water.

"The old reservoir was leaking and as a result we lost a lot of water. This is why we owe state organs such as Rand Water. The old reservoir is not the only one that is leaking but with the new one we will be able to limit water losses," said Counsellor Ntsele.

DWS's Project Manager, Mr Pogiso Mfoloe, said the project was funded under the Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WISIG) and comes at a price tag of R10.2 million.

Mr Mfoloe said the project would go a long way to address water losses that have plagued the municipality for years, citing that the project involved the supply, delivery, installation, testing, commissioning a pump station and 1.1 Ml per day elevated pressed steel tank.

The new reservoir replaces the old concrete tower that has been losing 20 litres of water per second daily.

Ms Zanele Mudau, the Senior Engineering Technician for Emfuleni Municipality, said the project entailed the construction of the pressed steel high-level reservoir, a pump station and associated pipe works.

She said the project was undertaken to allow the municipality to do a proper investigation of the existing high-level concrete reservoir that was leaking for a number of years.

Ms Mudau said: "We wanted to address the issues of water losses which we have in this area. So, this is one the projects that was identified under the water conservation strategy of the municipality and we very happy with the final product."

She added that the reservoir would serve the high-level areas within Vanderbijlpark and hoped that with the new infrastructure, including the tower that was conserving water they would be able to supply sufficient water to Vanderbijlpark.



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On the operation of the reservoir, Ms Mudau said there was a scheduled training specifically for the water demand team that was responsible for maintenance of the bulk infrastructure to ensure they understood the operational and management of the infrastructure.

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