



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water and sanitation challenges in Clarkebury will be thing of the past – Deputy Minister Tshwete

08 April 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, convened a meeting with the community members of Clarkebury to listen to their concerns on water and sanitation related issues.

The meeting, which was attended by traditional leaders and business leaders was held on Tuesday, 02 April 2019 at Clarkebury Community Hall.

Addressing the community members, Deputy Minister Tshwete told them she received a report from the Ngcobo Business Forum about the state of water in the area and she wanted to have first-hand experience of the challenges.

“I am here today to see for myself and listen to your cries. It is my responsible and to ensure that your challenges are sorted out as a matter of urgency and I will do just that. This government has a duty to fulfill people’s wishes and restore their dignity.

Amatola Water Board CEO, Ms Vuyiswa Zitumane, said Clarkebury’s water infrastructure is old and that the time had come that those in positions of responsibility assess the situation and come up with concrete plans to improve the situation. She further informed the participants that there exists an educational funding at Amatola Water Board, which would assist in re-looking Clarkebury’s old infrastructure.

Community members decried their situation and appealed to the Deputy Minister to come to their rescue. Vuyani Macingwane, the owner of Ngcobo Funeral Parlour said sewage in Ngcobo was running down the streets while sewage trucks were sitting in Queenstown. He admitted that their businesses had been badly affected.

Mdumani Danana of Sitebe village described the situation as being really bad for them as taps exist but are dry, resulting in worse sanitation challenges.



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Deputy Minister Tshwete summarily instructed the Eastern Cape Provincial Head and the Amatola Water Board to jointly look at the infrastructure and compile a detailed report with an intention of a total overhaul. She mentioned a need to come up with short term solutions to address the problems while also looking at long term solutions as well.

“The possible solution for the Clarkebury community is to look into Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) while revisiting the existing water schemes and boreholes. WSIG funds are there to attend to short term solutions. Chris Hani District Municipality, together with Ngcobo Local Municipality, must also sort out the issue of sanitation that is bullying the streets in town because it affects the business people badly. Sewage must not run to the streets”, she said.

Lameki Jumba