



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEAKING NOTES

DEPUTY MINISTER PAMELA TSHWETE

ON THE

**OCCASION OF THE HANDING OVER OF THE STRUISBAAI
WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS**

31 MAY 2018

Executive Mayor, Councillor Paul Swart

Speaker, Alderman Johan Nieuwoudt

Councillors

Members of the Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

The reason for our being here today is to hand over this critical project, the Struisbaai Wastewater Treatment Works to the Cape Agulhas Municipality, Western Cape. The project was funded through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

There was a need to augment the present lagoon or oxidation dam system in order that the upgraded works will service the present and future treatment requirements of both the coastal towns of Struisbaai and L'Agulhas, considering present and future development and growth.

The rapid growth in the number of houses with conservancy tanks has made it a logistic nightmare to transport sewage by road, especially during peak summer holidays.

Without the kind of work undertaken thus far, it was clear that the tourism and development potential of the towns would be at risk due to what would have been the lack of requisite wastewater treatment capacity.

As such, the need for a new wastewater treatment works was based on a number of issues. These included the existing treatment works being too small and heavily overloaded both hydraulically and biologically, the final effluent being below the required standard and not disposed of in the correct manner, the existing works being in poor condition and posing a significant threat of polluting ground water, tourism and development potential at risk due to a lack of wastewater treatment capacity, increasing permanent populations requiring additional treatment capacity, as well as peak holiday times inflows placing massive demand on the already overloaded works.

This project will now provide the first of two planned modules of a new activated sludge wastewater treatment plant. The plant will have the capacity to treat both existing and future demand to the standards set by the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). It will also dispose of the treated effluent in an environmentally acceptable manner.

It has taken a considerable period of time to get to where we are now, beginning in 2005 with the appointment of the Implementing Agents, the study as finalised in 2006 including the same Implementing Agent to carry out the administration and management of the implementation of the project for the upgrading of the sewage for the Struibaaai, L'Agulhas and Suidstrand.

We must also acknowledge the availing of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant that allowed for the upgrading of the Struisbaai and L'Agulhas scheme, which comprises of a main sewage pump station and bulk sewer lines which have been completed.

The environmental consultants were also appointed and delivered on their mandate through 2010 to do the Environmental Impact Analysis. This process was followed by the appointment of various contractors from October 2012 by the Implementing Agent for the construction portion of the project.

The total project cost is R16 548 056-00 and this includes co-funding from different role-players, namely, DWS, the Cape Agulhas Municipality, and the Local Municipality. This was done in the spirit of inter-governmental relations.

A further example of good co-operation amongst the three spheres of government came through the ultimate issuing of the waste license by Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP), Western Cape. The matter was resolved when DWS Regional Office wrote a letter to the Head of the Department, DEADP to break the logjam. We hope all of us as government will continue such positive co-operation in order to ensure better relations and outcomes leading to higher levels of economic activity.

This project will provide sewage purification services for all residents of the towns of Struisbaai and L'Agulhas that fall under the jurisdiction of the Cape Agulhas Municipality.

The total number of households that will be served by this 1st phase of the project is 1556, with a further 1486 will be served under the 2nd future phase.

We are glad that the Cape Agulhas Local Municipality as the Implementing Agent has taken ownership of the infrastructure. The municipality is also responsible for the

existing works. The municipality will also be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the project.

Thank you.

Ndiyabulela.

Baie dankie.