



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEAKING NOTES BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER
AND SANITATION,**

HON. PAMELA TSHWETE

**AT THE MAKANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS.**

14 JUNE 2018

Executive Mayor, Councillor Nomhle Gaga
Speaker, Councillor Yandiswa Vara
Chief Whip, Councillor Mthuthuzeli Matyumza
Whips of Political Parties
Councillors
Acting Municipal Manager, Ted Pillay
Department officials
Good morning

My visit today is to seek an overview and a clear understanding of the reported water problem in the Makana Municipality.

The South African Constitution provides the right to an environment that is not harmful to the health and wellbeing of its citizens and that is protected for the benefit of the present and future generations.

With these rights, then comes the obligation to ensure access to clean drinking water for all our people. We therefore need to act fast and decisively

As the Development Local Government has three phases the council, the municipality and the people it is important to ensure that it implement its obligation ensure provision of quality services to residences. We have observed that among the challenges facing the municipality has been to stabilise administration through the appointment of the Municipal Manager the position that has been vacant for a long time. We are happy to receive progress report on the appointment of the Municipal Manager that is going to be concluded very soon. The Minister of Cogta also visited the municipality so as to ensure that the municipality is functioning well.

My Department felt as a need to visit the municipality on the fact finding mission after negative reporting on the issue of water and sanitation in the past few weeks. An impression has been created that the Makana Local Municipality does not have water to provide for its residents where provision has been made there has a crisis with regard the quality of water. The Department of Water and Sanitation through the Provincial Office has been intervening with regard issues identified with regard the capacity of Kleynhans that is unable to provide storage for the increased population

that it provides. With regard to that there is a plan to ensure that Kleynhas is upgraded.

The challenge has been identified is that James Kleynhans has exceeded its design capacity and resulting in marginal water quality, Poor operations and maintenance in the settling chambers causing brown water. : Failure of disinfection equipment. With regard the issues raised as challenges the DWS is funding the upgrade of James Kleynhans Water Treatment through the Regional Infrastructure Grant with R20M for the current financial year. Amatola Water Board has appointed a contractor to dislodge the settling chambers. A contractor has already appointed to repair chlorine dosing equipment. The DWS has facilitated the loan of chemical and chlorine gas bottles. Emergency water sampling and analysis has been done Amatola Water Lab in East London. The DWS is ensuring the situation is attended to with the speed it deserves.

It must be noted that the situation has been improved through water quality standards. The observation has been made through construction that is being done water quality in the morning is affected and this matter is receiving attention it deserves it as a result of the construction on site. We are aware that there is challenge of funds which is the matter the DWS and Cogta will be attending to

Briefing notes on Makana Water issues (14/6/2018)

Grahamstown has two water schemes, Waaineck Water Treatment Works in the West and James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works (Glen Melville Dam) in the East. The two Waste Water Treatment Works (Mayfield & Belmont Valley) are in urgent need of an upgrade.

1.Drought in Makana Local Municipality

The Waaineck Water Treatment Works receives water from Howiesenspoort Dam (62%) & Settlers Dam (19%). The low level of Settlers Dam requires that water restrictions of 10% on Domestic use & 70% on irrigation use be applied. To comply

with this water restriction, Makana municipality ends up over abstracting from the James Kleynhans WTW (Glen Melville Dam), where there is no current restriction.

1.1 Makana declared a state of disaster and received emergency drought funding of R820 000.00 to recommission boreholes at Riebeck East & Seven Fountains

2. O&M Challenges at James Kleynhans WTW

2.1 James Kleynhans Scheme has exceeded its design capacity resulting in marginal water quality.

2.2 Poor O&M has resulted in an unacceptable build-up of solids in the settling chambers, causing high turbidity and brown water.

2.3 Failure of disinfection equipment forces process controllers to use chlorine granules as emergency which results in inefficient disinfection.

2.4 Makana LM ran out of chemicals in May'18 to effectively treat water to safe standards,

2.5 Makana Local Municipality is not doing monthly water sample analyses as they have no motor vehicle and no funds to pay laboratory services! Hence there can be no confidence in a safe water service!

2.6 Makana LM issued **Boil Water Notice** on 21 May 2018

3. Intervention Plans & Actions

3.1 DWS is funding the upgrade of James Kleynhans WTW through Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant. However limited funds have split the project into 4 phases. Contractor problems and budget cuts have delayed the program (

3.2 Amatola Water as Implementing Agent has appointed contractor to desludge the James Kleynhans WTW (taken 8 months to implement).

3.3 Amatola Water has appointed contractor to repair chlorine dosing equipment.

3.4 Sarah Baartman District Municipality has facilitated the procurement of treatment chemicals (taken 3 weeks), DWS officials facilitated the loan of chemicals and chlorine gas bottles from Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to ensure basic emergency treatment occurs.

3.5DWS facilitated emergency water sampling and water analyses at Amatola Water.

In conclusion I would like to urge the Makana Municipality to work together with Amatola Water in ensuring that the people have access to clean and safe drinking water. The need for an appointed Municipal Manager should be of urgency as well.

Thank you.