



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **The Department of Water and Sanitation intervenes to ensure the delivery of water in Mopani**

6 October 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation has taken bold steps to bring an end to the dehumanising conditions due to lack of water in Mopani District, Limpopo.

Having inherited a water crisis dating back 20 years, the department has worked tirelessly in the past three years to address debilitating water woes of the people of Tzaneen and Giyani. Millions have been spent to fund projects that supply water to the local communities.

After assuming office in 2014, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane has intervened decisively and cracked the whip to accelerate water service delivery among the communities that were struggling to access the precious resource. In his State of the Nation address in 2014 President Jacob Zuma announced Giyani as among his priorities to address.

Following the President's commitment, months later Mokonyane, together with representatives from provincial and local governments, held an Imbizo to decide on the cause of action to bring an end to the crisis. Subsequently, Lepelle Northern Water, a parastatal of the department, swung into action and in no time the Giyani Water Treatment Plant was refurbished. A multi-million rand pipeline was erected to pump water from Nandoni Dam to Giyani. It was all systems go as communities of 55 villages started receiving reticulated water supplies. Boreholes were drilled at Nkhensani General Hospital and the wards that had been closed were re-opened, ensuring better health services.

The completion and commissioning of 1,5 megalitres a day was extended to the Giyani Waste Water Plant which had previously been abandoned by the Mopani District Municipality, which improved the capacity of the plant to 3 megalitres a day. The sewage transfer pump stations were refurbished and the Nandoni—Nsami pipeline which transferred water from Nandoni Dam was also completed in 2014

In addition, a second business plan that covered emergency and non-emergency plan was completed to the tune of R11 billion. The rationale behind the plan was that government should be in a position to appreciate the scale and enormity of water service's needs,



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requirements and resources needed to progressively bring water relief to the distressed Mopani communities. The plan is being partly used as a source document for multi-stakeholder engagement with a view to source funding from various streams for implementation of outstanding components of the work.

Presenting its 2017/16 Annual Report before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee this week, officials of the department were up-beat about the achievements of service delivery in Mopani, despite some hiccups that occurred during the implementation of their business plan. There was enhanced capital infrastructure project planning, thereby reducing emergency intervention projects to a minimum.

They cited an improvement of 50% that was achieved on the targets of its annual performance plan targets, which were up from 35% in the previous financial year. The achievements came despite the enormous challenges that the department faced with the debilitating drought of the last three years.

The officials said the effects of the drought were still being felt even now, as the department accounted for various interventions to prevent taps from running dry. They assured members of the Portfolio Committee that the department was currently overseeing the transfer of assets and liabilities to implementing agents and municipalities in compliance with the Auditor-General's recommendation.

They said that funds were reprioritised in order to allow for major drought interventions that were not limited to the Giyani emergency interventions in Limpopo, the construction of the Richard's Bay desalination plant to ensure a reliable water supply to the northern economic hub of the KwaZulu-Natal as well as the targeted interventions in the Madibeng District Municipality and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West in order to improve and reinstate dysfunctional infrastructure.

Minister Mokonyane is of the firm belief that where the highest court in the land pronounces and directs the Ministry and department to intervene as in the case of Giyani, she will not hesitate to direct all energies in that direction; ensuring compliance with the courts, but more especially to bring necessary relief to the people of South Africa.

**END**

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**For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation, on 082 874 2942 / [rataus@dws.gov.za](mailto:rataus@dws.gov.za) .**

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