



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Tshwete Hands Over 10 Water Tankers to ADM

17 September 2018

Today, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete handed over 10 water tankers to the Amathole District Municipality (ADM) at Calgary Museum and Conference Centre just outside East London. The department had allocated ADM R30million from its Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) budget as part of the intervention to address drought in the district. Of this amount, R15million was used to purchase water trucks and the other R15million was used for drilling and equipping boreholes.

Mbhashe Local Municipality, Mquma Local Municipality, Ngqushwa Local Municipality and Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality received 2 water tankers each. Amahlathi Local Municipality and Great Kei Local Municipality received 1 each because the demand for water carting is not so great compared to the other municipalities.

While giving the purpose of the day, the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation Mrs Portia Makhanya mentioned that ADM was among the 5 municipalities that were declared drought stricken areas in the Eastern Cape. "Although we receive some rain, there are still pockets of drought including Mquma, Mbhashe and Ngqushwa Local Municipalities. We had a contract with a service provider that was carting water for communities but it expired. ADM made a request to DWS to put funds aside under the Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) for procuring water trucks because their trucks are very old and it is too expensive to fix them", Mrs. Portia Makhanya said.

"We have a challenge with illegal connections in rural areas because those who can afford simply connect themselves. Instead of taking legal action against them, we have decided to connect water meters in their households and bill them. In ADM, we are also finalizing a policy that will address the rural yard connections", the Municipal Manager: Thandekile Mnyimba said.

The Executive Mayor of ADM welcomed the intervention by DWS. "We are very delighted about these water trucks. They will go a long way to assist in the mitigation of drought especially in the most affected



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local municipalities. We have old trucks and they are not functional. As we speak, they went for repairs and it costs our municipality a lot of money to fix them”, said the Executive Mayor of ADM Councillor Nxawe.

“We don’t want to hear that the people who are driving these trucks are selling water because the municipality is buying the water from DWS for communities. It is very mischievous to make people pay twice for the same water. I’m appealing to the beneficiaries to prolong the lifespan of these water trucks through proper care and maintenance. We must not wait for people to protest before we deliver water services to them. Let us be proactive. Before 1994, getting water was a privilege which was meant for a few but things have changed now. We must not assume that people know that they must save water because they know that there is drought. We must tell people about water conservation”, said Deputy Minister Tshwete.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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