



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Government task team formed to help bereaved family of six-year boy who fell into an open trench in Giyani

15 January 2019

A multi-governmental task team has been established to consider ways of supporting the family of the six-year old Nsuku Mhlongo who died in Giyani, Limpopo, after falling into a manhole chamber that was left open by Khato Civils.

The team, led by the Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality, Nkakareng Rakgoale, which includes officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation, provincial and local governments, Lepelle Northern Water and community representatives visited the Mhlongo family on Monday, 14 January 2019.

Whilst visiting the family yesterday, the task team decided to conduct an assessment of all open trenches in the area and to immediately close uncovered pits to prevent more fatalities.

Government regrets the incident and offers its deepest condolences to the Mhlongo family on the untimely passing of their young one.

Government representatives who visited the family also committed themselves, not to only assist the family with funeral arrangements but to also lend a helping hand should the family decide to take legal action against Khato Civils.

In its efforts to ensure that the Giyani Intervention Water Project is completed, the Department is in the process of dispatching its Construction Unit engineers to go on site in Giyani as a matter of urgency.

The Giyani Intervention Water Project has been under implementation since August 2014 and has to date delivered approximately 92 % of the original scope of work. There is currently a very high risk that some of the achieved project outputs are likely to be lost due to vandalism of incomplete work or loss of materials on site. The phase 1 of Giyani needs approximately R420 million to make the infrastructure functional.

End

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