



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS, COT and SAHRC held a meeting on City of Tshwane water issues

13 August 2019

On Monday, 12 August 2019, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the City of Tshwane met with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to present the results of the Hammanskraal joint water sampling it conducted with the Commission and the City of Tshwane (CoT) on 20 June 2019.

After extended deliberations, the City of Tshwane conceded that the water they are currently supplying to the Hammanskraal communities is indeed unsafe for human consumption. As an alternative, water tankers are supplying drinking water but this might not be adequate in terms of coverage and frequency. The City of Tshwane was requested to consider additional tankers or alternative source of water while addressing the Temba Water Purification plant challenges.

In the meeting the City of Tshwane was reminded that drinking water improvement will only be achieved through the implementation of the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works interventions as agreed with DWS in 2017. These interventions included: proper operation and maintenance; proper sludge handling; maturation ponds dredging; cleaning and rehabilitating of Apies River which was polluted by the City of Tshwane; and in the long run addressing the pollution which has accumulated in the Leeukraal Dam where water for the Temba Water Purification plant is abstracted in Hammanskraal.

The commissioning of state-of-the-art Temba Water Treatment Plant will be of minimal assistance if the raw water quality is drastically degraded through the constant discharge of partially treated effluent into the Apies River from the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works.

The outcomes of the meeting include:

- A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20 August 2019 at 5pm (Patrick Sebothoma Hall) to give feedback to the community of Hamaanskraal on the joint results and also to give advice on precautionary measures while using the water while the current problem are being addressed.





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- SAHRC intends to conduct a public enquiry around October 2019 and the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation will be informed accordingly by the SAHRC. The timing of the event was taken with a view to afford the South African Human Rights Commission to draft the broad Terms of Reference, contact the complainants, the affected stakeholders, as well as the affected Government Departments that will be making presentations on the matter. The SAHRC will provide details closer to the time and the Ministers and Deputy Ministers will be informed accordingly.
- The City of Tshwane's MMC for Utility Services was requested by the SAHRC to formally retract his media statement regarding the unwarranted criticism of the joint sampling results in the media before engaging all the parties to the South African Human Rights Council.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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