



MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete hands over Lusushwane Bulk Water Supply project to rural communities of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality

25 April 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Pamela Tshwete officially handed over the R153 million Lusushwane Regional Bulk Water Supply project to the rural communities of Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality at Bettysgoed on 25 April 2019.

The Lusushwane project includes the construction of a water treatment plant, pump stations, steel reservoirs and a pipeline to ensure the distribution of purified, clean potable water for the communities in the villages. The benefitting villages include Bettysgoed, Smithfield, Lochiel, Oshoek, Aankomst, Hartebeeskop, Pampoen and Ouboom.

In handing over the infrastructure to the community, Deputy Minister Tshwete encouraged the community to take care of the infrastructure, treasure and use the water in a responsible manner and to keep the Lusushwana River clean and healthy.

“I am from the abstraction point and I have seen the river is clean and flowing freely. Rivers are key in providing water and it is our responsibility that we get healthy water by keeping our rivers pollution free and healthy. Climate change is a reality and I am happy to see the river flowing as most areas are affected to the point that rivers are dry as climate change brings drought”, she said.

The Deputy Minister also stressed the need for the community to take ownership of the water supply infrastructure.

“This infrastructure is yours, so take good care and protect it for long lasting benefits. Vandalism is the enemy of development, so let us prevent the vandalism of this infrastructure. With this project, the communities in the rural villages will receive free purified quality water. My plea to you, community members, is to use the water wisely and conserve as much as possible taking into consideration that South Africa is a water scarce country and the negative effects of climate change in our water resources.





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The Deputy Minister also commended the contractor for completing the project before time as the project was expected to be completed in November.

End

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For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942

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