



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete visited the Ngqushwa Local Municipality

11 February 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete met with the Ngqushwa Local Municipality (NLM), Amatola Water Board as well as the department's Regional office amid concerning water issues in this district. The meeting took place on Monday, 11 February 2019 at the NLM Council Chambers, Peddie.

The meeting forms part of the Deputy Minister's visits to various districts to offer solutions to reported water issues, as the Deputy Minister has been inundated with reports directly from aggrieved community members.

Ms Tshwete, when opening the meeting, acknowledged that though these issues were the responsibility of the municipality, national government could not sit back and fold arms while the residents bear the brunt of the challenges.

Some of the reported issues include: drivers of the municipality water tankers selling water, deliberate tampering with and damaging of water infrastructure, illegal water bypassing and rerouting by farmers, reservoirs within communities that serve certain areas only, and water restrictions imposed by the Amatola Water Board.

The DM gave a stern warning to councillors that are reportedly not helpful to their communities when water issues are brought to their attention. She also bemoaned the lack of accountability and the evident lack of cooperation between the Amatola Water Board and the Amathole District Municipality, impacting on the supply to the local municipality. It is also very important for the municipalities to respond urgently to the water leakages with assistance by the Amatola Water Board. This is very important to deal with especially during such water scarce conditions.

An update was given with regards to the installation of donated water stations through JoJo Tanks, while other good news was that of the sanitation programme commencing in March. This project involves the construction of toilets in the various villages.

The Deputy Minister has instructed her office to set up an urgent follow-up meeting with the decision makers and leadership of the Amathole District Municipality, Amatola Water Board, and the DWS Eastern Cape Regional Office. The invitation would also include the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

ENDS

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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