



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### Deputy Minister Tshwete hands over Bakerville Groundwater Project

23 April 2019

The Deputy Minister Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Pamela Tshwete accompanied by the MEC for Local Government and Human Settlement Motlalepula Rosho, Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Justice Makolomakwa, and Mayor of Ditsobotla Local Municipality Daniel Buthelezi handed over the Bakerville groundwater project to Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

The project will assist with providing reliable water supply and efficiently address the water shortages in the Bakerville area which falls under the Ditsobotla Local Municipality.

The area relies on two boreholes as their source of potable water and has been experiencing water shortages due to depletion of the yield from the two boreholes and an increase in population.

Addressing the community, Deputy Minister Tshwete reiterated that the handing over of the project comes at a time when the DWS is initiating the Groundwater Campaign to highlight the need to optimize groundwater use as an alternative within the greater water mix.

“It is befitting for us to be celebrating a project of this nature as the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is currently embarking on a campaign to highlight groundwater as an important alternative for basic use of water, under the theme “Making the Invisible, Visible”, said Tshwete.

The project is funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) at a cost of R20 million.

The project has benefited the project team and community with the following: -

- Involvement of trainee personnel in the project whilst gaining experience in all project aspects (design, contract administration, policies).

- Involvement of local people in the project whilst gaining experience and training on construction and contracting aspects and the following training for local labourers were undertaken and they received certificates of competence:

- Basic Plumbing skills – 21 Local Labourers
- First Aid Training – 7 Local Labourers
- Fire Fighter Training - 3 Local Labourers

- Provision of basic water services to the community, thus catering for future economic and domestic demand. The scheme will serve approximately 2241 people with potable water.

- Sourcing of materials from local suppliers and manufactures.



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Moreover, the Deputy Minister emphasized that there has to be a joint effort between the municipality and the community to take ownership and safeguard the project against misuse and vandalism.

“We need to stop the on-going vandalizing of the same infrastructure that benefits the community as it remains undesirable and is a criminal offence. Let us take pride in looking after our infrastructure, as this is a legacy for generations to come. There also has to be a further joint effort between the department and the municipality to educate and raise awareness on the dangers, and consequences of vandalizing the water and sanitation infrastructure”, said Tshwete.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison on 082 874 2942**

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