



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete convened a meeting regarding the water issues in the Nquthu Local Municipality

05 March 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete convened a meeting to address the water challenges in the Nquthu Local Municipality. Nquthu falls under the uMzinyathi District Municipality (UDM) and the district municipality is the Water Service Authority (WSA). The meeting took place on Monday, 04 March 2019 at the Department of Water and Sanitation KwaZulu-Natal Regional offices.

The meeting forms part of the Deputy Minister's visits to various districts to offer solutions to reported water issues. In her previous visit to the province, the Deputy Minister tasked the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) regional team to investigate and compile a report on the water situation in that area. This resulted in a joint effort by the provincial DWS, provincial Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Umgeni Water and UDM, to look at possible resolutions. The office of the KZN Premier was also represented.

An invitation was extended to the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (ARMSCOR). Ms Rakhee Ramgolam presented how their technical capabilities could assist in the face of the continued water challenges in the area.

The Technical Director at UDM Mr Lethu Mthembu, through his presentation, highlighted the status of the district's water supply. The focus was on the functionality as well as capacity per day of the Isandlwana, Vants Drift, Nondweni, and Qhudeni Water Treatment Works.

"The great news is that the Geohydrological study for the drilling of boreholes for various areas in Nquthu have been completed and the work will be concluded within six months starting in mid-May" said Mthembu. The areas that will benefit from this process are: Mfongomfongo, Nkalankala, Shayamoya, Ngwebini, Fahlaza, Ntshongweni, Maduladula, kwaNgobese, kwaNyezi and Esigqumeni, impacting on a combined total of 2556 households.

The three presentations by UDM, COGTA and DWS had one thing in common - the high level of water infrastructure vandalism and illegal water connections.

Highlights of the meeting resolutions:

Short term plans: the Deputy Minister proposed that the UDM Master Plan for Water must be shared with all stakeholders; intensified communication strategies by all stakeholders to avert vandalism and illegal connections and establishment of a Rapid Response Team.

Long term plans: Structural repairs to the reservoirs to be completed by 2020; feasibility study for the construction of bulk water supply in Nquthu and construction of a coffer dam for Vants Drift Water Treatment Works to improve reliability of water supply.

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