



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister hands over Lusushwana Bulk Water Supply project to rural communities

26 April 2019

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Pamela Tshwete officially handed over the Lusushwane Regional Bulk Water Supply project to the rural communities of Bettysgoed, Smithfield, Lochiel, Oshoek, Aankomst, Hartebeeskop, Pampoen and Ouboom in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality at Bettysgoed on 25 April 2019.

The R153 million project included 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 Executive Mayor of the Chief Albert Local Municipality, Cllr Dan Nkosi thanked the Department for the intervention and bringing clean purified water to rural communities. “We are breaking new ground and making history today as we bring clean purified water to rural communities. Take care of this project for your benefit and the benefit of future generations”, he said.

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

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





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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.

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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