

**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
31 December 2009**

PRETORIA: Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, has given a directive for the use of water tankers to deliver water to the villages in the Zeerust area that have been experiencing water shortages. Through the office of the DG at the Department, the Acting DG has agreed with the Botshelo Water Board that the Board will provide such a service from tomorrow, 01 January 2010. Two water tankers have been commissioned for this supply. This action is in line with Minister Sonjica's ideal to ensure through the Provincial Water Indabas, that there is synergy amongst the three spheres of government with particular support to local government which is at the coal;-face of service delivery.

"Access to water is a human rights issue and the people of our country have a right thereto. Therefore there will always be intervention from the Department of Water Affairs wherever possible to ensure that this right is not infringed upon, without undermining the rights and authority of the responsible local and provincial government", said Minister Sonjica.

Minister Sonjica through the Department will continue to monitor the situation and has decided that the review of this situation will be the first issue to be dealt with in her calendar for the new year. She will also liaise with the Premier of the North-West Province Ms Modiselle on the matter to ensure that the matter as critically as is required.

ENDS.

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