



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

MONDAY 13 APRIL 2020

### INTERVENTION IN MOUTSE & COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Keamotseng Stanley Ramaila and Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation David Mahlobo today met to discuss water related issues in the district.

The two meetings held during different intervals to observe social distancing, were attended by representatives of the Lepelle Northern Water, a provincial government owned water service provider, CEO of Philadelphia Hospital, representatives of the Dennilton Plots Owners, an association of locals who own plots in the area, and representatives of the Moutse Water Steering Committee.

In the first meeting, it was agreed in principle that the Dennilton Plot Owners will allow authorities to use boreholes that are located in their plots to immediately supply the Philadelphia Hospital with water.

These boreholes are owned by the Dennilton Plot Owners.

The hospital was beset by water shortages due to the drought that had negatively affected the Mkhombo Dam levels, from where it had been getting water.

The drought equally affected Moutse, which was subsequently declared a disaster area.

The Sekhukhune District Municipality continued to supply the hospital with water tankers, however, the supply was still not enough to service both the hospital and communities of Moutse.

Two boreholes were drilled inside the hospital premises to mitigate the problem, but they still did not yield adequate water supply.

The district municipality then initiated talks with the Dennilton Plot Owners and on Monday it was agreed that the municipality and the Lepelle Northern Water will immediately equip the remaining one of the two boreholes and provide the hospital with adequate water.

A formal agreement between the Dennilton Plot Owners and the Sekhukhune District Municipality as well as Lepelle Northern Water will be entered into in the coming days.

“The hospital must be able to manage its water supply, there must be sufficient storage, this will help the hospital to have adequate water even if there’s a technical challenge with pumping,” said Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

Executive Mayor Ramaila lauded the Dennilton Plot Owners for putting communities’ needs first. “The plot owners have demonstrated that they are the true ambassadors of the Thuma Mina clarion call made by President Cyril Ramaphosa.”

Meanwhile, the Department will provide about 4000 (four thousand) storage tankers (so called jojo tanks) to communities of Moutse to mitigate effects of the drought conditions.

About 150 storage tanks have already arrived and 20 water tankers to replenish them will arrive by the end of April.

The process is underway to identify boreholes that will be equipped to supply the area of Moutse with water in the medium term, while awaiting completion of the Moutse Bulk Water project.

In a separate meeting, it was reiterated that the district municipality has received 80 storage tanks from the Department.

The municipality is currently building stands for these storage tanks in other areas that have water shortage.

The Department has provided the district municipality with four water tankers, and the district still awaits 16 others.

Separately, Lebalelo Water User Association, a cooperative association of water users such as mining companies has promised to provide the district municipality with nine water tankers. This is in addition of the promised 70 water storage tanks.

Executive Mayor Ramaila has urged all stakeholders to expedite these interventions in communities that do not have access to piped water. "It's crucially important to work with speed because we are dealing with the invisible COVID-19 enemy."

The Sekhukhune District Covid-19 Command Council, which the executive mayor chairs, has instructed all the local municipalities and the district municipality to reprioritise their Municipal Infrastructure Grants budgets to fight the possible spread of the Covid-19.

Ramaila has also urged the people of Sekhukhune to adhere to the lockdown regulations as this will enable all of us to beat the dreaded virus.

Issued by the Sekhukhune District Municipality

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