

Our Ref: 14/13

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Enq: J Motlhasedi

08 April 2019

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **THE WATER LEVELS HAVE IMPROVED AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNICAL TASK TEAM RESOLUTION**

The situation of water supply in Huhudi and Greater Taung is slowly improving and approaching normal levels following some good rainfalls and fixing of the vandalised Mogopela pipeline over a couple of days. It is also clear that the facts finding mission undertaken by the District Municipality Technical Task Team led by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Boitumelo Lesego Mahlangu is bearing fruits after the implementation of the resolutions of last week Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2019. The implementing agent of the District Municipality, (which is Sedibeng water) has worked very hard on ensuring that the three (3) transformers that had broken were installed back into the Water Treatment Purification Works. The emergency generator back up has been used to pump water to Huhudi.

It should be noted that the Huhudi supply needs at least minimum of 5 500 000 liters of water per day but due to inadequate raw water from the Vaalharts canal and at times vandalism, the location had not received what it was supposed to get previously. Truth should be told that, the canal system belonged to Department of Water and Sanitation, and it was transferred to Vaalharts User Association in the early 2000. The purpose of the canal system was to supply agriculture with water for irrigation purposes, the local municipalities of Magareng and Phokwane. It must also be noted that the Naledi local municipality was added later into the canal system while 50% of the water supply directed to the farmers.

Over and above, the issue of vandalism and theft of water infrastructure in the area is of the great concern because it is causing a serious inconvenience to the public who use water on a daily basis. Such acts have to stop because once infrastructure vandalised, someone has to pay for it and it is unfortunate that it has to be the taxpayers. Vandalism is an inconvenience to residents because when the District Municipality or Sedibeng Water repair



infrastructure, they have to shut off the water supply entirely, leaving residents without access for hours or even days. The recent incident of Mogopela village canal pipeline damaged and other bursting have threatened the provision of water supply to the community and it should be reprimanded without any justification.

The community should be made aware that the Section 84, subsection 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (108 of 1996) which signed into law of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act, in 2015 stated that any person found guilty of any infrastructure related offences can be sentenced to imprisonment. This includes any offence involving ferrous or non-ferrous metals which form part of an installation, structure, facility or system, whether publicly or privately owned, which is used to provide or distribute an essential service in relation to water, sewerage, energy or transport for the benefit of the public.

**Issued by Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality Communications**

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