

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Building No 6
Extension 2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park
Nelspruit
Mpumalanga
Republic of South Africa



Private Bag X11304
Nelspruit
1200

(013) 766 0000
International Tel: +27 13 766 6087
(013) 766 6087
(013) 766 8252
International Fax: +27 13 766 8252

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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MEC MTSHWENI CONDEMNS WATER PROTEST IN THE NKOMAZI MUNICIPALITY

The MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni has condemned the water protest at Mangweni village in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. During the protest action, residents barricaded a local road and disrupted local schools as a ploy to express their demand for water.

MEC Mtshweni says while the demand for water is legitimate, however, the protest action undermines the government's efforts to provide water to the affected community. "COGTA is working with the Nkomazi Municipality and the Department of Water and Sanitation to provide water to all affected villages. In Mangweni, a 2 Mega-Litres of water reservoir is under construction as an intervention to resolve the water shortage. Once completed, the reservoir will complement the available water reticulation projects to supply water 24 hours a day," Mtshweni says.

A similar project is under construction in Steenbok, in the Nkomazi Municipality. The two reservoirs, are amongst the nine water reticulation projects initiated by the provincial government to address water shortages in Mpumalanga. Similar projects are underway in Phola, Kabokweni, Matsulu, Cunningsmore, Casteel and Thusanang and are to be completed soon to complement the available water supply.

MEC Mtshweni says while government recognizes the right of communities to have access to water, as enshrined in the Constitution, however, she appealed for patience as government is doing everything humanly possible to address the matter," MEC Mtshweni said.

She further appealed to communities not to temper with the infrastructure for water. This follows several illegal connections to water pipes, which reduces the pressure for water supply in other areas. Mtshweni warned that those doing so, will face prosecution for causing damage to property.

End

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Contact Person: Ms Lefentse Nkosi – 082 964 4732

E-mail: lefentsen@mpg.gov.za

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