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MEDIA RELEASE

MEC FOR COGTA, HON. MTSHWENI VISITS WATER PROJECTS FOR INTERVENTION

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni visited several water projects in the Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge Municipalities for intervention. The visits formed part of her oversight role as the political head of COGTA, and the desire to ensure that communities have access to basic services such as water in line with government's commitment to do so.

In Nkomazi, MEC Mtshweni visited Mangweni, Steenbok and Block C villages, accompanied by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza and municipal officials. Like in many areas, the supply of adequate water in these areas is hampered by illegal connections, misuse of water and leakages. Water for the supply of the Mangweni community is abstracted from the Nkomazi River and 25 mega-litres of water is purified at Tonga Water Treatment plant, before distributed to a local reservoir and to a tank for supply to the local community. Of the 80% reticulated water, only 30% is supplied to the local community due to illegal connections.

COGTA and the Nkomazi Municipality are building a 3 Mega-Litres ground reservoir, as an intervention for improved supply of water. A separate bulk line is being installed to transport water from the reservoir to affected communities. In Steenbok, the construction of a 2-mega litres elevated tank is underway, to provide the local community.

In Bushbuckridge, MEC Mtshweni visited the Cunningmore B, Casteel and Thusanang water projects accompanied by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Renius Khumalo, Acting Head of Department, Mr Richard Mnisi and senior government and municipal officials. The 2 Mega –Litres reservoirs are still under construction, and once completed, the purification of water will be done at Inyaka Treatment Works. During the visits MEC Mtshweni insisted that the projects should be complete by the end of July 2014. COGTA and the Bushbuckridge Municipality are committed in improving the water supply to the local villages for 24 hours a day.



MEC Mtshweni said water is a constitutional right for the people and the government is working hard to meet the obligation. "We are a supporting pillar for municipalities to provide water. We are working hard to accelerate all water projects so that our people can have water," she said. She expressed concern about illegal connections, leakages and misuse of water which undermines government's efforts to provide water to all communities. She appealed to communities with water challenges to be patient.

Ends.

Issued by:

Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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9 June 2014