



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC MTSHWENI CONDEMNS WATER PROTESTS IN THE THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in Mpumalanga, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni condemned protest at Verena in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. During the protest action, residents barricaded local roads and cause disruptions

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 Thembisile Hani Municipality to provide water tankers to all affected areas as a temporary solution".

Water reservoirs construction that includes water treatment plant are underway and projected to be completed in this fiscal year .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 possible to address the matter.

"As government, we recognize the fact that there are service delivery challenges in Mpumalanga. We are aware that most of our communities are affected by the lack of water. Improvement of the roads and electricity connections are often on the list of the demands. However, we are concerned that the protests are a short cut to express dissatisfaction without exhausting all other avenues." says MEC Mtshweni

**Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
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