

MEDIA STATEMENT

STAKEHOLDERS EMBRACE ENGAGEMENT SESSION WITH THE MUNICIPALITY

Attention: News Editors / Journalists / Press Members

Date: 20 June 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Makhanda stakeholders responded in large numbers to a stakeholder engagement session that was held at the City Hall on Monday, 19 June, demonstrating eagerness to be part of the solution to current challenges.

On Monday, 19 June, a constructive stakeholder engagement meeting was held at the Makhanda City Hall to communicate what steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted water supply in Makhanda. Stakeholders from various sectors of society packed the Council Chambers in the City Hall and participated fully in the discussions.

The Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Ms Portia Makhanya and Chairperson of Amatola Water Board, Ms Pam Yako joined the Mayor of Makana Municipality, Councillor Yandiswa Vara in a session facilitated by the Council Speaker, Councillor Mabhuti Matyumza. Interactions during the session emphasised the need to be collaborative and accessible with excellence as a cornerstone.

Makana Local Municipality and Amatola Water engaged in important discussions and physical visits to both water plants that supply Makhanda with water. The purpose of these activities was to assess progress on work that is being done, to ensure that the residents of Makhanda have a consistent supply of water. After the discussions a site inspection led by technical staff, was undertaken to see what has been accomplished thus far. The delegation took the same approach at the Howiesonspoor Pumpstation.

Following a site inspection on Sunday, 18 June and other assessments, we can confirm that we have a plan outlining incremental improvements that will end water provision problems.

Makana Municipality shall strive to ensure sustainable, affordable, equitable and quality services in a just, friendly secure and healthy environment, which promotes social and economic growth for all.

...a great place to be

Some interventions are already bearing fruit. For example, water rationing has decreased from two water off days to one day off and one day off. A comprehensive progress reporting will be done by month end.

Amatola Water has been appointed to provide operation, maintenance and management support to the bulk water service infrastructure. This support includes the management of four water treatment works. These being Waainek, James Kleynhans, Alicedale and Riebeek East. In the area of Makana Municipality the current water demand is 18 mega litres per day. Current production stands at 14 mega litres per day, meaning a shortfall of 4 mega litres per day. Amatola Water Board's interventions are directed at securing the current capacity of 14 mega litres per day whilst implementing solutions that are designed to both sustainably solve the shortfall and provide a surplus that can ensure better forward planning.

Some key areas of focus include revamping the chemical area, getting additional filters and stabilising the plant's pumping capacity at James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works. The plant is currently running with one pump.

ENDS

**Issued by the Makana Municipality Communications Office.
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