



## MEDIA ENQUIRY

### BRIEF: Questions for the Department of water affairs regarding Giyani

1. Since the Giyani bulk water project was announced in 2014, it has been stated that 55 villages would benefit from the project. Are the villages of Maswanganyi and Muyexe included in that list?

Yes, the villages of Maswanganyi and Muyexe are among the 55 villages to be reticulated to increase the level of services from communal taps to yard connections as part of the Giyani Bulk Water Supply project.

The reticulation work package is an added package to the project and is being implemented by the Mopani District Municipality through the funding from the Department of Water and Sanitation's Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), and we are providing necessary oversight to ensure that it is on track.

2. The portfolio committee on water affairs said earlier this year that "The programme to reticulate 24 villages as part of Phase 1 has started". Are Maswanganyi and Muyexe included among those 24 villages?

The work package for reticulation of the 55 villages is divided into 2 phases. Phase 1 consists of reticulation to 24 of the 55 villages, and Muyexe and Maswanganyi villages form part of the Phase 1 project.

3. As I understand it, the department has finished building the pipeline that leads from the Nandoni dam to the Nsami, but this raw water cannot yet be used as drinking water as the reticulation networks in the 55 villages still need to be completed. Is this correct?

Indeed, the construction of the 40.1 km raw bulk pipeline from Nandoni to Nsami has been completed. Its purpose is to transfer raw bulk water from Nandoni dam to Nsami dam, thereby augmenting raw water coming from the Middle Letaba dam.

The water will be treated in the 30 megalitres a day (ml/d) Giyani Water Treatment Works situated in Nsami, into quality drinking water in line with SANS 241, then be



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distributed through secondary bulk pipelines from the commanding reservoir in Nsami to the reservoirs that will ultimately supply water to the 55 villages.

Currently, the Giyani Water Treatment Works functioning at 17ml/d and is unable to meet the current demand in Giyani and surroundings and therefore undergoing refurbishment in order to return it back to its optimal capacity and also supply the phase 1 of the 55 villages that have been added on the scope as part of the Giyani Bulk Water Project. This will be phase 1 of the work package and is scheduled to be completed in December 2023.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this work package is to upgrade the water treatment plant with a further 10 ml/d to start in April 2024; this is to ensure that it covers the remaining 31 villages to be reticulated, also in the beginning of the new financial year.

The project is also being implemented by the Mopani District through the Department's WSIG.

All these work packages are on track, and we anticipate that they will be completed within the set timelines. We know that the people of Giyani have been patient and we continue to plead with them for their patience as we work towards providing them with sustainable, reliable and consistent water supply.

4. Under previous administrations, the department of water affairs was charged with corruption and irregular expenditure over the Giyani water project, leading to significant delays. Under the current minister, the project appears to have new life - how has the department achieved this?

Minister Senzo Mchunu, upon his appointment in 2021 and having received a report about the project and its events that had been marred by serious challenges of poor management and corruption which had led to the loss of billions of rands and the project stalling for several years, instructed the Lepelle Northern Water Board, as the Implementing Agent, to resume the project and ensure that it is fast-tracked and completed.

The Minister understood that we could not keep the people of Giyani waiting any longer to have access to one of their basic human rights, this, while the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) conducted its own investigation into the loss of billions of rands that could not be accounted for.

The focus was to fast-track the raw bulk water from Nandoni to Nsami in order to increase the raw water that was coming from Middle Letaba Dam that was not enough

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to meet the current demand; construct secondary bulk pipeline from treatment plant to reservoirs in the villages and the refurbishment and upgrading of the treatment plant. However, in order to increase the level of service, Minister Mchunu added the reticulation work package to ensure that communities in the 55 villages receive water in their yards. These remaining three work packages are being implemented simultaneously.

In order to ensure that the project remains on course and completed within the allocated time the Minister has instructed the Department conduct monitoring and provide update reports on the progress on regular basis and to enable interventions where necessary.

5. Do you believe that the Giyani project would have already been completed if not for the irregular expenditure incurred under previous administrations?

Yes!

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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