

Water and Sanitation in the News

Water suppliers cut services over non-payment

Residents of more than 30 villages in North West face a dry holiday season after service providers owed millions of rand by the district municipality cut off water supplies.

Four companies — Gaoranolwe Investment, Maqs Construction and Plant Hire, Mafoko Brothers and Ziggy Investments — were given a three-year contract to ferry water to 119 villages by the Ngaka Modiri Molema district municipality. But the companies have suspended deliveries due to non-payment. The contract, which expires in September next year, entailed delivering clean drinking water to 918 tanks placed at strategic points around the villages.

Two weeks ago, two of the companies, Maqs Construction and Plant Hire and Gaoranolwe, pulled out as the municipality has failed to pay them since February. "We have stopped delivering water to all the villages. The municipality cannot give us an exact date when to expect our payment," said one service provider, which did not want its name mentioned.

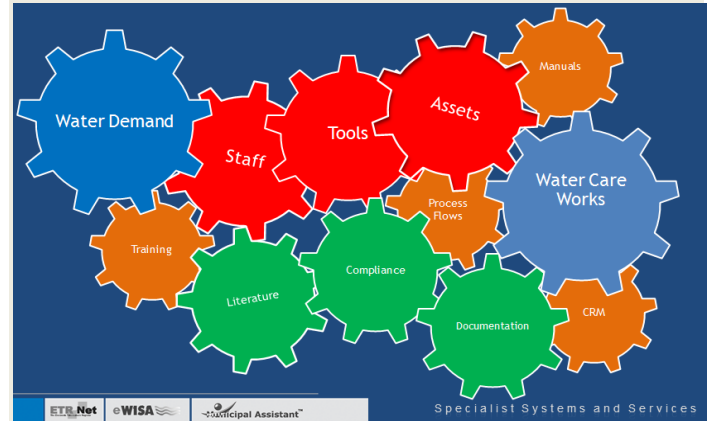
In a meeting held with the management, Sedibeng Water and the service providers last Thursday, the municipality agreed to issue a commitment letter to the concerned companies. "We are still waiting for the letter. In that meeting, we agreed that they will pay us the money owed for this month and tell us how they were planning to pay us the balance," the service provider said. "They owe us more than R100m. It has been months now without any payment: we cannot go on like this."

The district had been paying the companies R14 per kilolitre. The municipality was placed under administration for the second time in six months in March, after it was initially put under section 139(1)b in September last year. Spokeswoman Letlhogonolo Matsose said the municipality was struggling financially. She confirmed that two of the service providers had stopped providing water in 33 villages in Mahikeng, Ramotshere Moiloa, Ditshobotla and Tswaing local municipalities from December 1. She promised that intervention processes would be put in place.

Sources: *Business Day*, 15 Dec 2015

The **Municipal Assistant™** System was developed to provide local municipalities with the necessary tools to ensure the sustainable use and management of their water resources. The MA system's approach to drinking water and waste water

management support is comprehensive as it **incorporates all the vital components** needed to ensure efficient and sustainable water supply.



It is a software system which serves as a centralised databank with output modules to facilitate the management, administrative and operational functions (including maintenance) of a water care works and related activities.

The Municipal Assistant™ software system is a bespoke modular system and was developed using Microsoft technologies and is installed as a standard Windows client application (i.e. it is not a web-based system).

Apart from the Windows operating system, no additional software licences are required, i.e. the Municipal Assistant software installs its own pre-requisites. The deployment options rely mainly on the types of network or internet connections available.

If the pre-requisites are installed to each client workstation, the application files can be placed in a shared folder on a server (users will need read/write access to this folder). The system allows for the creation of multiple users (each with an individual unique password) governed by a master administrator.



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