

Water and Sanitation in the News

Progress made in supplying water to Mashonamini village

The Department of Water and Sanitation says steady progress is being made in providing water to the residents of Mashonamini village, in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. The department on Monday said phase one of projects to deliver water to the area has been completed. A total of R601-million has been allocated for phase two of providing water.

“A service provider/main contractor has been appointed on the projects by Rand Water and is expected to be on site by January 26, 2015. “This work that will start [next] Monday is expected to reach completion in line with the commitment of Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza by December 2015,” the department said.

A week ago, the residents of Mashonamini threatened to strike if their needs weren't addressed soon. The residents claim that they had been without water for the past twenty years, despite the completion of the multi-billion rand Inyaka Dam water scheme.

Source: [Engineering News, 20 Jan. 2015](#)

Context

Ensuring adequate supply of clean drinking water to communities is considered to be a growing problem globally. According to a survey of leaders from business, government, universities, international organisations and NGOs by non-profit foundation the World Economic Forum (WEF), pressure on fresh water resources may be the main global threat in the next decade, but the world is failing to mitigate the risk and avoid a crisis.

Published in its Global Risks 2015 report released ahead of the WEF's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, this week (21-24 January), the survey reveals a belief that **water crises pose the greatest risk in terms of global impact**. This places it ahead of hazards such as the spread of infectious diseases, the failure to adapt to climate change and interstate conflict, prompted by the rise of the Islamic State.

The WEF defines water crises as a significant decline in freshwater quality and quantity, resulting in damage to human health or economic activity or both. The report points to a study projecting that, by 2030, the global demand for water will exceed sustainable supplies by 40 per cent. Problems will be particularly severe in areas where factors such as urban sprawl, make it harder to manage available water resources.



The WEF survey also examined risk preparedness. Participants were asked to rank progress made in the past ten years to address each risk. The responses suggest that a water crisis, along with extreme weather events and natural disasters, is among the problems the world is least prepared to deal with.

Source: [allAfrica, 20 Jan. 2015](#)

For communities to enjoy stable supplies of safe drinking water, it is important to ensure that the entire water supply cycle, from abstraction, to treatment, distribution and discharge are done with the correct equipment, that is maintained, and by staff that are technically skilled, with management enabled to lead a team effort.

The **Municipal Assistant™** software system helps to achieve this by facilitating the efficient management functions related to water treatment and supply. The development of the Municipal Assistant™ was initiated to address the need for an operational information system to assist with the operations, maintenance and management of water and wastewater facilities and related infrastructure.

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