

Water and Sanitation in the News

Minister to Hand Over Water Project to Hopetown Community

Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane will on Friday hand over a R35 million water treatment works project to the community of Hopetown in the Northern Cape. The project has ensured that approximately 2 565 households or about 13 591 people, according to Statistics South Africa's Census 2011, now have access to clean drinking and sustainable water.

The Hopetown Water Purification Plant, which is providing water to Hopetown and Steynville, previously had a capacity of 226 m³/hr or 4.5MI/day (20-hour operation day). The plant's capacity has now been increased to 280m³/hr or 5.6MI/day for a 20-hour operation day, and now provides good quality water to these communities.

According to the Water and Sanitation Department, since the completion of the water treatment works project in Thembelihle Local Municipality, there has been a significant drop in complaints received from Hopetown through the Presidential Hotline (17737) and the Department of Water and Sanitation's toll free line.

Thembelihle Local Municipality is a Category B municipality established in 2001 in accordance with the demarcation process. The municipality has a population of approximately 15 701 people, the majority of which reside in the Hopetown area. The average household size in the Thembelihle Local Municipality is 3.7 persons per household.

Source: SAnews.gov.za, 03 Dec. 2014

Context

A recent Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) report confirmed that demand for water has already overtaken supply in 60% of South Africa's water management systems. It also revealed that pollution and water borne diseases are key risks to our water supplies, after finding that almost 40% of South Africa's waste water treatment is in a "critical state". A whopping R293 billion needs to be spent over the next five years, otherwise we face a looming water crisis. Implementing the correct water resource and water asset

management systems will be crucial in helping to avert wide scale water insecurity and health risks over the coming years. The production of safe drinking water and the discharge of acceptable quality effluent to rivers is critically dependant on equipment that is maintained, staff that are technically skilled and management that is leading a team effort.

The **WAMTech Municipal Assistant™** is a software system which serves as a centralised databank and a "digital filing system" with output modules to facilitate the **management, administrative and operational functions of a water care works and related activities.**

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.



The Municipal Assistant™ uniquely combines into a single user friendly system with the following core functionalities:

- Water quality monitoring and management
- Evaluating and reporting compliance with regulatory water quality standards and criteria (SANS 241, licensing conditions and Blue Drop and Green Drop specifications)
- Assists the user in the compilation of various reports (including a Blue Drop/Green Drop reporting facility)
- Asset management to ensure optimal performance of facilities to produce good quality drinking water and discharge
- Operational and maintenance scheduling of equipment and staff utilisation
- Assist with routine and process control inspections and incident reporting
- Compilation of operational and maintenance budgets to ensure timeous preventative maintenance and replacement of equipment

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WAMTech are specialists in implementing technology systems for improved governance, focussing on Water and Public Health Information Systems

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