



SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

KOMMUNIKASIE EENHEID

UNITI YA TLHAELETSANO

Private Bag X5030,
Kimberley 8300
Tel: (053) 830 6721

e-mail: tmathibi@solplaatje.org.za

Verw.Ref. No.:

Navrae/Enquiries:

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Embargo: None (For Immediate Release)

Date: Friday, 26 January 2024

RE: NEW HOPE FOR IMPROVED WATER SERVICES IN THE SOL PLAATJE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNVEILED AT WATER WORKSHOP

Path set for significant change

Sol Plaatje Local Municipality (SPLM) hosted a two-day Water Workshop at Kimberley's Horseshoe Inn Conference Centre punctuated by frank and robust discussions from participants comprised of experts in water infrastructure and supply, business representatives, councillors and officials amongst others.

The workshop, which ended this afternoon, has been held amid SPLM having experienced over many years unprecedented water interruptions which could not be addressed.

This, as it became evident that the municipal budget was inadequate to properly maintain, repair or refurbish the aged water infrastructure. SPLM has over the past two years been actively pursuing the identification and sourcing of additional funding to address the urgent water infrastructure upgrade needed to address the poor infrastructure, ongoing water supply interruptions and improve the water quality.

Approval of long-term funding for major bulk water refurbishment

Many consumers may have lost hope that the water interruptions in SPLM will ever be resolved, but in January 2023 our efforts as the Municipality were rewarded when we were notified by National Treasury that our application for funding through their **Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) funding** was approved. This approval means that a significant amount of funding (**in excess of R 2 billion**) will be made available by National Treasury and the Department of Water Affairs over the next 5 years to execute the Sol Plaatje Bulk Infrastructure Refurbishment Programme (SPBIRP). This is very good news to all our consumers!

The need to fix all bulk water infrastructure

In order to understand the scope of the SPBIRP it is important to understand where the potable water supplied to Kimberley comes from:



The City that Sparkles

- The starting point is the Vaal River Abstraction point at Riverton. At Riverton two watertreatment plants treat the raw water obtained from the Vaal River and pump this treatedwater via large diameter pipelines to the Newton reservoir site. From the Newton Reservoirs, the treated water is distributed through a network of reticulation pipes, pressure reducing valves and meters to the end consumer.

For consumers to receive water in the tap, all the components from the abstraction point up to the yard connection need to be functioning properly – otherwise water interruptions will be experienced as it has been the norm. This is the reason why all the infrastructure mentioned above requires urgent refurbishment, repair or in some cases even complete replacement. Not only is the SPBIRP required to improve the reliability of water supply to the consumer, but it is also necessary to reduce water leaks and to improve the water quality.

The infrastructure components of the SPBIRP

The scope of the SPBIRP will include a number of projects to improve the SPLM water security:

- Riverton **Water Treatment Works** (various refurbishment projects on old and newworks to improve production capacity and water quality and reduce water losses)
- **Pump stations** (various upgrades to improve safety and energy security)
- Bulk **pipelines** between Riverton and Newton Reservoir (various projects to repair andreplace the supply pipelines, valves to reduce water losses)
- Newton **Reservoir** (various projects to fix the leakages at the reservoirs, supplypipelines and booster pumps)
- Kimberley **water network** (various projects related to network zoning, water leakdetection, pipe replacement and meter replacement.

How will the SPBIRMP affect the consumers of Sol Plaatje Local Municipality

In the long term the consumers will experience improved water service delivery, both in terms of reliability and quality. However, in the short term, it should be understood that during the repair and refurbishment process, planned water supply interruptions on key infrastructure is inevitable. These interruptions will vary in duration and frequency and will be communicated formally to all consumers. As the interruptions will be well planned, the duration and frequency will be minimized at all costs.

The Municipality is excited to finally have an opportunity to make the water supply disruptions and problems previously experienced, a thing of the past. We trust that our decisive course of action shall be widely endorsed and would be met with patience.

We also wish to thank all participants of the Workshop for having equally been able to reflect on the hardships endured by businesses and residents, and in having provided a critical analysis and appreciation for the path we have set towards achieving water security through uninterrupted and quality supply. **//END**

Issued By: Sol Plaatje Municipality – Communications Unit

Enquiries: Thabo Mothibi – Communications Manager

Email – tmothibi@solplaatje.org.za / Tel: 053 830 6684