

MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY

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MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY-MP 302

AUGUST 25, 2010

MEDIA RELEASE: RESIDENTS CRIES FOUL AS ERMELO RUNS DRY

The water pipe network connecting Douglas Dam in Ermelo supplying more than fifty five thousand households in Wesselton and adjacent areas was badly damaged by the passing heavy duty vehicle leaving thousands of residents stranded without water on **Tuesday morning, August 24, 2010.**

It is imperative to note that despite the recent public outcry of water shortage, the technical team of **Engineering Services Department of Msukaligwa municipality** is presently hard at work fixing and repairing the damaged water pipe network in which water is said to be fully restored in due course.

The information around the heavy duty truck which caused the unexpected water crisis is still sketchy however full scale investigation relating to the incident is being conducted with speed to ascertain the extent and estimate costs of damage in which the costs of damage may be astronomical pending the outcomes and findings of the investigation to be entailed in the technical report.

The technical report will then be submitted to the Office of the Municipal Manager for further consideration and determination on the matter in responding to the findings of the investigation comprising of the costs of water losses encountered during the massive water leakage.

Msukaligwa municipality would like to re-assure residents that despite the major inconvenience experienced of water shortage, efforts of restoring water in all the affected areas are being carried out through effective contingency plans of water tanker distribution to allow residents in need to access a drop of water under this unfortunate circumstance.

The maintenance plan for the upgrading of the water network is on top of the municipal priority list and the plan is being effectively implemented to salvage the sombre situation in which drinking water will be fully restored back to normality for the benefit of all the affected residents.

The newly opened and fully operational **Gert Sibande District Water Quality Laboratory** strategically located in the vicinity of **Cassim Park in Ermelo** for quality assurance of water testing bears testimony to the progress made thus far.

Dry season leading to a number municipal reservoirs struggling to pump drinking water into the multiplicity of households was another contributory factor to the current situation in which the municipality had on several occasions requesting the public to use water sparingly until the challenge of drinking water outage is resolved.

Msukaligwa municipality is always committed to health and safe drinking water for its citizenry in striving for compliance to the technical standards of quality assurance to effective water management enshrined in the applicable legislations.

Enquiries for the latest developments and other related emergencies can be directed to the Msukaligwa Call Center at **086 1167 852 or (017) 801 3400 for urgent attention.**

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