



public works & infrastructure

Department:
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DPWI SAVES MONEY THROUGH INNOVATIVE WATER TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

By Thokozani Ngema and Lunga Mahlangu

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) handed over the Operational Site Fresh Water Treatment facility in Stellenbosch farm plant quarantine, in the Western Cape on **12 July 2024**. The borehole at the facility was identified as a critical water source that will be used to increase the facility's water supply and essentially reduce the facility's reliance on the municipality's water supply.

Through this intervention, the facility will also help improve water efficiency at all government buildings in the Western Cape as the department realised the potential of this project. The project resonates with the water sustainable water management and climate change mitigation. Furthermore, the agriculture sector will benefit through the quality water as the facility will help prevent the introduction and spread of harmful plant pests and diseases.

The Department identified an opportunity to simultaneously save water and money for the client department - Department of Agriculture and therefore appointed and embarked on a partnership with water saving experts company called - Resolve Water Management Solutions. Through this facility, the department saved R7, 500 000, 00 and 177 kilolitres of water.

This partnership resulted in the Department appointing and assigning the company to erect the innovative water saving facility on the premises of the Department of Agriculture in Stellenbosch. The positive spin-offs of this innovative water treatment plant will further help treat borehole water to match the SANS class 1 drinking water quality standards and ensure it is safe to be utilised as an alternative water source.

The DPWI's Mr **Rachard Samuel**, who is the Facilities Management DDG praised the company for its innovative intervention of saving and preserving water for its client department. He highlighted the fact that the department can "take advantage of this rare opportunity to benchmark with the company's technicians to impart and capacitate Young Professionals and therefore enable them to increase their skills set".

DPWI Cape Town Regional Manager Ms **Phucuka Penxa** who handed over the facility with DDG Samuel expressed delight in the handover of the facility to the client department by highlighting that the DPWI is committed to ensuring that it adheres to its mandate of allocating essential resources to its client departments through the provision of this innovative water saving measures courtesy of Resolve Water Management Solutions".



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