

ELM granted R20 million intervention



Emfuleni Executive Mayor, Gift Moerane, Emfuleni MMC for Public Works, Bhekie Ntsele and from ERWAT Managing Director, Tebogo Gopane during the media briefing at the Mayor's Parlour in Vanderbijlpark recently. Photo: Lazarus Dithagiso

Lazarus Dithagiso

VANDEBIJLPARK. - The Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) has been granted R20 million by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to upgrade sewer pump stations and to deal with the ailing sanitation system.

The Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation's National Rapid Response Team and ELM also engaged about the intervention to deal with the pollution caused by spillages of raw sewage into the Vaal River recently. Speaking during the media briefing the Executive Mayor of ELM, Gift Moerane, said the continued spillages are having a negative environmental and health impact on the community and the socio-economic growth of the area.

"The region is faced with aging infrastructure resulting in high maintenance cost and performance failure."

The purpose of the intervention is to ensure that all wastewater treatment infrastructure is resuscitated to an operational state and pollution in the Vaal River is stopped.

"There's a need to prioritise the upgrade of 40 pump stations

and all three treatment plants should be refurbished to optimal functionality."

Moerane also announced that the DWS had given a company from Ekurhuleni, ERWAT, a service provider, a task to take care of the Vaal River from where the South African National Defence Force (SANDAF) has left off. The contract of the SANDF is about to expire.

Tumalo Gopane, Managing Director from ERWAT, said they are finalising the program of the sewerage lines and putting security in place.

"We need to make sure proper maintenance is done."

Emfuleni MMC Public Works, Bhekie Ntsele said, "As the people of the Vaal, we have been given an opportunity to fix the problem through the municipality. The project belongs to locals, no one should attempt to hijacking it and it should not be tainted."

Ntsele said residents must welcome this intervention.

The ELM said that local labour will be recruited for projects and locals given first preference.