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AMATOLA WATER ON TRACK TO ENSURE WATER PROVISION TO THE MAKANA MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY

Following its appointment to address water provision challenges to the Makana Municipality, Amatola Water conducted an assessment to gain further understanding about developments. In the main progress is being made which signals a direction towards possible end to lack of access to clean and safe water in the area, albeit at a pace slower than anticipated.

Reports are that the extent of water cuts have been lessened, which affirms the correctness of the approaches adopted. Also importantly, the organisation of the National Arts Festival was not affected by any water challenges meaning a prudent revenue generation vehicle and economic injector was not derailed.

In regard to specific technical details, the original target of ensuring an additional ten mega litres from James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works on 30 June 2023 needed to be revised after interrogation of over-optimistic commitments made by the appointed service providers, compounded by poor management of the transition from the previous Contractor and intermittent severe weather conditions. The revised date for sustained solution that will enable no more water interruption is now 30 August 2023 for first water of the additional 10mld and year end for project completion. Amatola is adding internal capable capacity to ensure strict compliance. On a week-to-week basis an assessment will be made including if an end to water cuts is experienced before the final set target. Also, penalties will be imposed on the Service providers concerned as a consequence if this state of affairs arises.

Additional workforce has also been added at the site by the contractor to expedite the work performance

Interim Board Members: Ms P Yako (Chairperson), Mr N Tyibilika, Mr A Mjekula, Mr S Dzengwa, Ms Z Kiviet, Ms B Mokgatle, Ms S.P Xulu, Mr S Koyo (Acting CEO), Adv T Sagela (Company Secretary)

More good news is that Amatola Water restored water for the residents of Alicedale who received water from boreholes. Amatola Water has also supported Makana Local Municipality in restoring raw water extraction from Howinspoort Dam which was interrupted for a few weeks. This dam feeds Waainek Water Treatment Works where the water treatment works functions optimally and is producing water for the west side of the town.

Another positive development is that a new pump at James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works, which is a very vital and essential component in water production on the east side of the town, has arrived at the plant and is currently being installed targeted for commissioning the week of 10 July 2023. This pump was originally meant for a later phase of the James Kleynhans WTW augmentation project and was brought forward to assist at the high lift pump station. This encouraged the project team as an additional pump gives hope to water supply augmentation from the water treatment works. Amatola Water remains adamant that the James Kleynhans project will bear fruit, and the community of Makana Local Municipality will soon get enough water from this multi-million-rand project.

Amatola Water's priority is to ensure consistent and reliable water supply from this water treatment works before the end of the year. Moreover, Amatola Water has increased its monitoring and oversight meetings to facilitate the project and ensure there are no foreseen derailments.

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