

**Programme Director  
Council Speaker; Mme Raganya  
Chief whip  
All Members of the Mayoral Committee  
Members of the media fraternity  
Ladies and gentlemen**

**Good Morning  
Thobela  
Avuxeni  
Sanibonani**

**We have organized this media briefing to give an update on the processes undertaken and the work done thus far in relation to the decision to take over bulk water supply from Rand Water by the municipality. The decision is now a public knowledge and it is a resolution of Council. The municipality took a resolution through Council to terminate the contract with Rand Water Board as the bulk supplier of water within the municipal area of jurisdiction. The decision has been consulted and communicated with the office of the MEC CoGTA and the Ministry Water and Sanitation for concurrence. In implementing the decision of Council we also consider the element of inter-governmental relation wherein the views and advice of thr Premier are considered.**

**We initially planned to have the take-over to happen by the 1<sup>st</sup> of Febraury 2019. We have to postpone the target date to allow other logistical and procedural arrangements to be in place.**

The processes has been rigorous and inclusive of all relevant and interested stakeholders including, Rand Water, the Provincial Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ehlanzeni District municipality (EDM), Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Organised Labour ( SAMWU and NEHAWU) have been taking place behind closed doors to ensure smooth transition.

Once all matter have been put in place, the municipality will be absorbing some of the Rand Water Board employees that have been doing work for the distribution of water in Bushbuckridge to ensure uninterrupted distribution and supply of water to communities. Job security for the staff to be transferred has been carefully considered and we want to assure them and the families that their employment is safe, like we did when we took over the former department of Water Affairs staff. No employees will lose their job or be negatively affected by the take-over. We ask the full cooperation of all interested stakeholders to assist in this process.

According to the Section 78 report, it revealed that the municipality will save a fortune in the purchase of bulk water when we do it ourselves. Currently, the municipality is paying over R24 Million per month to Rand Water for bulk water. The study have projected a saving from this monthly billing.

We will also augment bulk water through boreholes whilst awaiting yard water reticulation projects in some of the outstanding areas. The municipality will also in the near future utilize the newly- built Belfast water treatment package to

**extract and purify water from the Sabie river. We are already in possession of water license to make use of the treatment package and we are awaiting few touch –ups to be done on the treatment package. I am delighted to announce that once the treatment package is up and running, it will assist in resolving the water supply and provision to some communities under Lillydale regional offices.**

**I want to take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest terms the perpetual illegal water connections. Illegal water connections which DO NOT ONLY result in water infrastructure damages and reduction of pressure; it also affects water supply to high –lying areas. Other people do not get water because of this illegal connections.**

**This impacts negatively on service delivery in general in the sense that the municipality has to time and again replace damaged pipelines at the expense of other equally important services such as tarring of roads and construction of bridges to mention just two.**

**I also appeal to community members to report water leakages to their nearest municipal regional offices. Both Mutlomuvi and Sand River are experiencing shortages of raw water and this has affected water supply to Thulamahashe and surrounding areas. We urge community members to use water sparingly and also save some for future uses. The recent rain did not have much impact hence we request that we save water.**

**Lastly, I am calling upon those who owes the municipality for municipal services rendered to them, to take advantage of the 40% discount offered by the municipality and settle their municipal accounts. This offer is valid till the end of March 2019.**

**The municipality is owed over R 1 billion in unpaid municipal services rendered such as refuse removal, water provision, and sewer maintenance and public lights in previous financial years.**

**I want to allay the fears of everyone and assure the public that we are positive and confident that the municipality will provide the residents of Bushbuckridge with clean water according to national standards and norms. It is our responsibility to ensure that we don't fail our people and ensure that we fulfill our constitutional mandate of providing our people with clean and affordable water.**

**Through my office members of the media will be the first people to be informed of the actual date of take over once it is concluded.**

**Let me thank you for your time, without you there is less direct communication link with our communities.**

**Inkomu  
Ngiyabonga  
Ka leboga  
I thank you all**

**[EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR SYLVIA NXUMALO  
: MEDIA BRIEFING ADDRESS ON BULK WATER  
SUPPLY HELD ON THE 30JANUARY 2019, AT  
BLM COUNCIL CHAMBER]**

---

January 30, 2019