



SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY

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MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WATER SUPPLY UPDATE FOR THE CITY OF KIMBERLEY

1. RIVERTON PUMPING & PURIFICATION PROCESS

In the past few days we experienced a problem with low levels of water at the reservoir complex. This was due to the following factors:

- The delayed shut down which resulted in water depletion in the reservoirs.
- The cables which blew and resulted in shortage of water supply

Thus in order to deal with the situation, we had to apply water shutdowns in the afternoons starting from 14:00 till 4:00 a.m. every day. The production at the water treatment plant was **90 ML/day** and we were pumping about 82ML/day to Kimberley. The consumption is currently at **90ML/day** which means that the volume pumped is not sufficient and sustainable.

INTERVENTION

In order to improve production at the treatment works, we had to deviate from the normal operational treatment process. For an example, backwashing is normally done **3 times** a day this is now increased to **6 times**. This has improved the production capacity to **97ML/day** from the plant. Due to the fact that more water is produced, we then had to increase the pumping capacity. This was achieved by pumping with two new high lift pumps instead of using one old vertical pump and one new. The pumping capacity from **82ML/day to 95ML/day**. This is for sure far more than the current consumption. The water levels have already improved, it anticipated that the nightly shutdowns will be suspended permanent as from Wednesday, 13th of November 2019.

2. INSTALLATION OF THE 10 MVA TRANSFORMER

The construction of the plinth (platform) will commence on the 11th of November. The scheduled completion date for the installation is the 29th of November.

3. COMMISSIONING OF THE OLD PLANT (54ML CAPACITY)

Sol Plaatje municipality has two Water Treatment facilities, which are the old treatment works with a 54 ML and the new 108ML production capacity. The old facility is currently out of operation. The water is being produced from the new facility which gives on average a production of 97ML/day. There is a need to increase the production capacity and this can only be achieved by commission at least half of the old treatment facility. The filters at the old treatment facility have been refurbished and the blower system have been procured and awaits commissioning. Work is currently underway to commission section of the old facility in order to improve the current production capacity. The scheduled completion date for the commissioning of the old treatment works is scheduled for Friday, 15th of November.

4. REPAIRS ON THE BULK WATER SUPPLY LINE (965 WATER MAIN)

The repair work on the bulk line (965 water main) was scheduled for Sunday, 10th of November. All repair work was completed as per schedule where the team managed to fix six leaks on the rising main.

5. WATER LEVELS AT NEWTON RESERVOIR COMPLEX

The Newton reservoir complex comprises of four reservoirs which are 102ML; 91ML; 23ML and 45ML. The total capacity is 261ML. The operational requirement of the reservoir is that they must be at 16ft at all times to ensure that there is no water supply shortage.

Capacity of reservoir	Levels (ft)	Date
102 ML (Isolated/closed off)	15ft	11/11/2019
45 ML	12.4ft	11/11/2019
23ML	12.4ft	11/11/2019
91ML	12.4ft	11/11/2019

The 102ML reservoir is almost full and it has been closed off and isolated to secure reserves. Thus the 45ML; 23ML and 91 ML are in operation and need to be filled up to 16ft. The water supply shutdowns will continue until all reservoirs are at 16ft. We therefore anticipate to fill all reservoirs by Wednesday, 13th of November and suspend all water supply interruptions. We continue to request the community to continue with saving water and report leakages to the Call Centre. The areas currently without water are being attended to by the teams from water works. The Sol Plaatje Municipality regrets the inconvenience. Thanks

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