



Press Release
9 May 2023

WATER AND SANITATION MINISTER SENZO MCHUNU DEPLOYS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ILEMBE DISTRICT

On Tuesday, 09 May 2023, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Honourable Senzo Mchunu held a meeting with the iLembe District Family of Municipalities where the Minister was engaged and briefed on the progress in the provision of water and sanitation within the iLembe District. The meeting was to seek Minister Mchunu's intervention on the challenges and bottlenecks currently experienced within the district.

iLembe district is one of the districts within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal that was severely affected by the April 2022 floods. The prolonged load shedding is not assisting the situation. As a result, a number of infrastructure, including the water infrastructure were damaged by the raging storm.

The iLembe delegation was led by the Operation Sukuma Sakhe/District Development Model MEC Champion Ms Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni who is the MEC for Finance KwaZulu-Natal. Other leaders who attended the meeting were the iLembe District Mayor Councillor Thobani Shandu, representatives from uMgeni Water, Siza Water, Eskom and some of the key district's stakeholders.

Minister Mchunu was taken through on the projects that are on the pipeline in order to address water challenges within the district. Upon listening to presentations, Minister Mchunu committed his department to intervene by deploying a technical team from his department to work with the district in isolating all challenges.

"We are pleased with the commitment that we are seeing from the political leadership within the district. This shows how serious you are as leaders to serve communities. We all know that water is a basic human right, that cannot be negotiated and it does not depend on political affiliation. People have a right to have clean drinkable water and to have their sewage disposed, hence from today, we will be leaving a team of engineers from the Department of Water and Sanitation to work with the district." said Minister Mchunu.

Minister Mchunu says their focus will be on isolating all infrastructure backlog and identifying all the priority projects based on the urgent need of each municipality within the district. He further said, working together with the district which is the water authority, they will then find the possible ways to fund the projects so that people will soon have water.

"This technical team must come with a clear plan indicating priority per each local municipality, funding model and this should be accompanied with timeframes demonstrating how long it would take to do the required work. We are aware that this will not be an easy exercise but it must be done and with speed." Adding Minister Mchunu.

Issued by the iLembe District Family of Municipalities. For more information please contact Manager; Communications of iLembe District Municipality on 071-8759985.

