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MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: News Editors/ Journalists

Subject: Completion of James Kleynhans Treatment Plant Upgrades - Phase 2 in Makhanda

Date: 05 August 2024

COMPLETION OF THE JAMES KLEYNHANS TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES (PHASE 2) IN MAKHANDA

Amatola Water Board is pleased to announce the completion of the James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works (JKWTW) Phase 2 project.

This milestone achievement marks a major development in the overall upgrading of the JKWTW plant and its automated 20ML per day bulk water supply to Makhanda (Grahamstown) residents and business communities.

The three - phased JKWTW upgrades include amongst others, the construction and installation of water treatment works, storage facilities, pipelines, pump stations and associated system components to meet the bulk portable water for Makhanda.

Intervention measures that were put in place in May and June yielded positive results, with Phase 2 being completed on 30 June 2024 and all commissioning and training being done by 16 July 2024. This extended date was due to a series of financial and technical challenges experienced by the contractor, resulting in the project completion date been revised.

This is significant progress towards ensuring uninterrupted water supply in Makana Local Municipality as per our implementing agent mandate by the Department of Water and Sanitation to help restore capacity of the JKWTW.

“We are thrilled that the JKWTW is now fully automated and positioned to ensure that our increased bulk water supply will reach Makhanda residents, obviously with Makana Local Municipality operating the plant as scheduled”.

We have not only managed to increase the plant capacity from 10ml to 20ml per day since August last year, but we have now completed an essential automation phase to realize that water capacity is available to communities within the Makana Local

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Municipality. Furthermore, spare pumping capacity has been provided', said The Acting Chief Executive, Mr Jonathan Jackson.

"This is indeed good news for our residents and client, Makana Municipality that the Phase 2 upgrades are now completed and that we are transitioning to the final Phase 3 of the project which is scheduled to commence in November 2024". He said.

It is worth noting however that although the entire project is fully completed and commissioned, the overall operation and maintenance of JKWTW remains the sole responsibility of the Makana Local Municipality.

For media enquiries, kindly contact Acting Manager: Communication and Stakeholders Management Amanda Skritch on 066 183 9663 or Email: askritch@amatolawater.co.za.

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