



LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO REPLACE ASBESTOS PIPES

Lephalale Local Municipality in line with its goal and commitment of ensuring comprehensive water service delivery to its community launched an asbestos water pipe replacement project on Tuesday, 3 May 2016. Through this project the Municipality is planning to institute reliable and comprehensive water management and water losses control plans on its water infrastructure investments that is currently above twenty years old.

Existing water supply systems should be refurbished and/or upgraded in a manner that serves the growing population of Onverwacht, Lephalale Town, Marapong and rural communities.

The present water supply systems and the capacity of virtually all infrastructures need to be increased (to at least double the present capacity in many instances) in order to provide for growth in the short and the long term. Existing infrastructure is also aging, with the early failure of AC pipes increasing the normal rate of refurbishment required.

The Municipality in collaboration with the Department of Water and Sanitation initiated the AC pipe replacement project which will be implemented in phases. The implementation of this project will enable the Municipality to curb water losses from the existing 119km AC pipes in Lephalale which includes a 60KM section that need immediate attention. The existing pipes ranges from 100mm to 300mm diameter at an approximate depth of 1m to 2m below the ground. It is planned that the implementation of this project will take place over a five month period, which started on 06 April 2016 and will end on 13 September 2016.

Thus, the phase by phase replacement of the existing AC pipes is hereby been initiated as strategically implementation of the above project. The project seeks to address all aspects which have a direct bearing on the sustainable provision of bulk water services over the long term.

During this Municipal Financial year the following streets are targeted:

1. Waterlelie Street
2. Tsessebe Street
3. Waterbessie Street
4. Waterpan Street

5. Valsdoring Street
6. George Wells Street
7. Walter Sisulu
8. Ngoako Ramathlodi Street

The Municipality appointed Baswa Electro Consultants as consultants on the project, and Zenobia Trading as contractor on the project.

Project value: R 10,500,000.00. The Municipality contributed **R 3,500,000.00** on the project this financial year and the balance of **R 7,000,000.00** is from the Department of Water and Sanitation.

At the sod turning the Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr M J Maeko said: “This project is extremely important as it deals with the basic needs of our people.”

The Mayor urged the contractor to adhere to safety regulation and all other legislative requirements surrounding employment when working on the project. He added that as we observed workers day on 1 May we should use this month to focus on the needs and challenges faced by workers in Lephalale.

He further encouraged the contractor to employ locally and to consider job seekers who are physically challenged as part of their employment strategy.

The Mayor urged employees not to embark on unnecessary strikes, but to engage with the Municipality who will mediate between the two parties for solutions.

The Municipality would like to apologise in advance for any interruptions and inconveniences which might occur during the implementation of this project. Residents are encouraged to report water problems to the Municipality on 014 763 2193 or 0827700085