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MEDIA STATEMENT

JOE GQABI DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MAYOR PROVIDES UPDATE ON WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES IN MALETSWAI

Maletswai, 12 September 2025– The Joe Gqabi District Municipality (JGDM) wishes to provide a further update on the ongoing water supply challenges affecting Maletswai. Additionally, the municipality has noted with concern a social media narrative alluding to the municipality's growing dependence on water tankers as the primary source of water provision in Maletswai.

The municipality disputes that there is growing dependence on water tankers as the primary method of water distribution in Maletswai.

"We are pleased to inform residents that replacement pumps have been procured and delivered to Maletswai earlier today (12 September 2025). These pumps are currently being installed and tested. Once they are fully operational, it will take up to 24 hours for the system to stabilise and restore water supply across all areas at the required pressure. During this transition, water carting will continue to ensure relief to higher-lying communities," said the Joe Gqabi District Municipality Executive Mayor, Councillor Nomvuyo Mposelwa,

"Currently, only one raw water pump remains in operation, which is not producing sufficient volumes to meet the town's full demand. As a result, large parts of the community continue to experience shortages. While some lower-lying areas connected directly to the main line are receiving water, higher-lying communities remain without reliable supply and are being supported through water carting," said Mposelwa.

"Three municipal water trucks, each with a 10 000 litre capacity, are operating in the town to provide emergency relief. These trucks were procured through a public tender process to ensure fairness, transparency, and competitive pricing. At present, two contracted companies are assisting with the delivery of water to affected communities," added Mposelwa.

"Estimated timeframes for water restoration is tomorrow afternoon (Saturday, 13 September 2025)," explained Mposelwa.

She further explained that the municipality has put in place the following measures to reduce the recurrence of such challenges going forward:

Procurement readiness: A new tender will be issued in the next few weeks for a supplier of various pumps and related materials on an as needs basis that will reduce the time period for procurement when needed.



Improved maintenance procedures: Standard Operating Procedures have been adjusted to address the gaps of time between maintenance to accommodate for the river carrying a higher silt and sand load and to have more spares in stock to accommodate emergency needs as they arise.

Early warning systems: Enhanced monitoring protocols with the Department of Water and Sanitation will ensure greater warnings for reduced water flow allowing for better management on low water levels.

Infrastructure upgrades: The municipality is evaluating tenders for the construction of holding dams at the Aliwal North Water Treatment Works to improve the processing of raw water during high-flow periods.

Long-term renewal plan: A three-year funded programme has been approved by the municipal council to replace asbestos pipes across Maletswai. This project will reorganise and strengthen the town's water distribution system, improve zoning, and allow for better management during times of stress.

"We remain committed to ensuring the restoration and long-term stability of the water supply system in Maletswai. We would also like to thank the community of Maletswai for their patience and cooperation as we implement both immediate relief and sustainable solutions.

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