

Press Statement  
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Executive Mayor of Tshwane

31 March 2026

## **Tshwane Multiparty Coalition Government launches Water Stabilisation Plan and commissions 15 new municipal water tankers to restore reliable supply and reduce reliance on outsourced services**

***Note to Editor:** The briefing is led by Executive Mayor, **Dr Nasiphi Moya**, and supported by Deputy Executive Mayor and MMC for Finance, **Cllr Eugene Modise**, MMC for Utility Services, **Cllr Frans Boshielo**, Acting MMC for Corporate & Shared Services, **Ald Hannes Coetzee**, Members of the Mayoral Committee & senior officials from the Water and Sanitation Business Unit. Operational teams and municipal tanker units are present on site to demonstrate internal capacity.*

Tshwane operates one of the largest and most complex municipal water systems in the country.

This includes over 660 km of bulk pipelines, more than 10 000 km of reticulation network, over 80 pump stations, and more than 150 reservoirs and towers.

This is a pressure-driven system that requires constant balance between supply, storage and demand.

When that balance is lost, the system does not fail uniformly. High-lying and distant areas lose supply first, and recovery takes time.

For years, this system has been under sustained pressure.

Ageing infrastructure, declining maintenance and chronic underinvestment have left key parts of the network unstable. Bulk supply interruptions, contamination, power disruptions and vandalism have further compounded these challenges.

The result has been a steady increase in outages, prolonged recovery times and growing reliance on emergency interventions.

The challenge in Tshwane is not simply water availability. It is system performance.

Water must be treated, pumped, stored and distributed across a vast and ageing network. When infrastructure fails or reservoirs do not recover, supply becomes intermittent.

This is the reality we are stabilising.

## **Water crisis and stabilisation plan**

Tshwane is not facing a single failure. We are managing a system under sustained pressure.

As a City, we have a clear plan to stabilise it.

The first pillar is water security.

We are currently consuming approximately 32% above our licensed allocation. This is not sustainable. It places the entire system at risk and limits our ability to stabilise supply across all regions.

Our response is direct and disciplined:

- Reduce consumption across the system 100 megalitres Reitvlei and Roodeplaat
- Reduce physical losses through leak repairs and pipe replacement
- Metering of our hydrants.
- Enforcing level 1 restrictions.

This is how we bring demand back within sustainable limits and protect long-term supply.

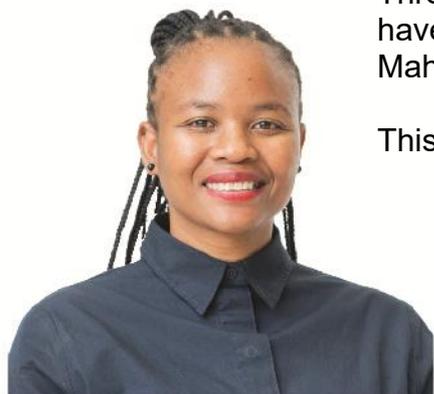
We are here in Mamelodi for a reason.

The people of Ikageng have endured intermittent water supply for six years. Mahube Extension 3 has faced instability for even longer.

These communities reflect the lived impact of system failure.

Through targeted interventions under the Water Stabilisation Plan, we have restored supply to Ikageng and significantly improved supply in Mahube.

This is what stabilisation looks like in practice.



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Fixing the system where it is failing and restoring reliable water to residents.

### **Stabilising the system: a consolidated intervention programme**

Stabilisation is not a single intervention. It is a coordinated programme across the entire water value chain.

This includes:

- Restoring reservoir performance and improving storage recovery rates.
- Strengthening pump station capacity and pressure management.
- Reconfiguring distribution networks to improve flow and reduce imbalances.
- Accelerating leak detection and repair programmes.
- Removing illegal connections that destabilise pressure.
- Improving system monitoring through telemetry, metering and operational visibility.
- Coordinating planned maintenance to reduce prolonged outages.

Central to this reform is the strengthening of the Water and Sanitation Business Unit.

This creates an integrated, end-to-end management structure covering planning, infrastructure, operations and maintenance.

This is essential to sustaining long-term system stability.

These interventions are being implemented simultaneously across the system.

They are designed to restore control, stabilise supply and reduce the frequency and duration of outages.

### **A war on leaks and water losses**

A critical part of stabilisation is reducing water losses.

We are intensifying what can only be described as a war on leaks.

This includes:

- accelerated leak detection and repair programmes
- achieving high resolution rates on reported leaks
- targeted pipe replacement to address recurring failures
- pressure management to reduce bursts and losses



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removal of illegal connections that distort system performance  
This work is already delivering results. Over 150 priority leaks have been repaired, with resolution rates now exceeding 99% on reported incidents.

We are also introducing hydrant metering and improved monitoring across the network.

This ensures that all water drawn from the system is measured and accounted for, prevents unauthorised usage, and strengthens accountability in tanker operations and system planning.

Reducing non-revenue water is one of the fastest ways to stabilise supply.

Every litre saved is a litre available to residents.

### **Infrastructure investment and system renewal**

We are responding with targeted investment to reverse years of underinvestment.

Through the 2025/26 adjustments budget and the 2026/27 budget, we are significantly strengthening both capital and maintenance expenditure.

This includes:

- R2.8 billion in capital investment, increasing to R3.5 billion
- R163.3 million for bulk water provision
- R158.9 million for wastewater upgrades
- R101 million for pipe replacement
- R120 million for water conservation and demand management
- R53.9 million for reservoir upgrades
- R1.4 billion for repairs and maintenance

This marks a deliberate shift from deferred maintenance to sustained infrastructure renewal.

At the same time, we are strengthening the City's own water supply capacity.



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This includes maintaining and optimising output from facilities such as the Rietvlei Water Treatment Plant, reducing pressure on bulk supply and improving long-term water security.

### **The role of water tankers**

It is important to be clear. Water tankers have been a necessary operational response to system failure.

As outages increased, tanker deployment increased to ensure continuity of supply to residents, clinics, schools and other critical services.

In some areas, including Hammanskraal, this supply is also required in terms of court orders and public health obligations.

Operational data confirms this relationship. Peaks in tanker deployment correspond directly with periods of low reservoir levels and system interruptions.

Water tankers are therefore a temporary intervention. They are not a substitute for a functioning water network.

Our objective is to reduce and ultimately eliminate widespread reliance on tankers.

This is being achieved by fixing the system.

### **Building municipal capacity and restoring control**

Today marks a significant step in restoring control over water tanker services.

We are commissioning 15 new municipal tankers, with 13 already in service and the remaining two to be deployed next month.

This brings the City's fleet to 41 municipal tankers.

This forms part of a deliberate shift away from an outsourced model that proved costly and difficult to manage.

By insourcing this function, we are improving response times, expanding coverage and strengthening accountability. This is about restoring control over a critical frontline service.



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At the same time, we are strengthening operational capacity, including trained drivers and internal deployment capability, to ensure that emergency supply remains aligned to verified need.

### **Containing water tanker expenditure and restoring control**

At the peak of operations earlier this year, 175 trucks were deployed at a monthly cost of R20.56 million.

This has been reduced to 141 trucks at a cost of R8.34 million per month (R100 million)

Savings exceed R12 million per month (R144 million)

The tanker budget has been reduced to R126.7 million, a 79% decrease, with R110 million redirected to infrastructure and municipal capacity.

We are moving from emergency spending to planned investment.

Reducing long term reliance on tankers

Water tankers are not a long-term solution.

They are a temporary response to system failure.

The goal is clear: water must come from taps, not trucks.

Transition to a municipal-led model

From 1 April 2026, tanker services will be fully municipal-led.

- 26 tankers in daily operation
- 13 newly commissioned
- 2 additional units arriving next month
- 23 trained drivers

This restores control and reduces long-term costs.

**Hammanskraal**



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Hammanskraal remains a complex structural challenge, driven by contamination, pressure constraints and incomplete bulk infrastructure.

We have stabilised compliant supply and are strengthening the system through improved pressure management, completion of key infrastructure and optimisation of treatment works.

This is a phased programme to deliver a permanent and safe water supply.

### **Winterveldt**

Illegal connections significantly reduced pressure and disrupted supply.

We are removing illegal connections, repairing leaks and restoring network integrity.

The Winterveldt Reservoir is nearing completion and will stabilise long-term supply.

### **Olievenhoutbosch**

Rapid growth placed pressure on the system, resulting in imbalance and intermittent supply.

We are strengthening distribution through monitoring, hydrant metering and targeted infrastructure upgrades to restore system stability.

### **Mabopane**

Mabopane R was the final outstanding area.

Pressure constraints, illegal connections and storage limitations affected supply.

We are addressing these through connection removal, leak repairs, pressure management and reservoir strengthening.

### **Bronkhorstspuit**

The plant became unstable and at one point produced no water.



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We are restoring pump capacity, replacing filters and implementing a structured recovery plan in coordination with the Department of Water and Sanitation.

This is a full system recovery.

### **Strengthening sanitation and wastewater systems**

Water and sanitation must be stabilised together.

In Ga-Rankuwa, Mabopane and Soshanguve, ageing infrastructure and growing demand have placed pressure on wastewater systems.

We are upgrading treatment works at Rooiwal, Temba and Babelegi, improving maintenance, strengthening response to overflows and implementing system optimisation measures.

These interventions are supported by:

- R158.9 million for wastewater upgrades
- R146 million for bulk sewer infrastructure

This work is essential to restoring system integrity and protecting public health.

We are applying this approach across Tshwane. In Hammanskraal, supply remains constrained by water quality challenges, pressure limitations and incomplete bulk infrastructure.

We are stabilising compliant supply while advancing long-term solutions, including collaboration with national partners to deliver large-scale treatment interventions that will secure safe and reliable supply.

In Winterveldt, illegal connections and leaks have reduced pressure. These are being removed and repaired, while new infrastructure will secure long-term supply.

In Olievenhoutbosch, rapid growth has outpaced capacity. We are restoring balance through monitoring, metering and targeted upgrades.

### **Supporting vulnerable communities**

While stabilisation continues, targeted support remains in place.



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170 informal settlements are being supported, reaching over 312 000 households with basic water services. This support has required sustained investment to ensure that no community is left without access while permanent solutions are implemented.

As part of this effort, the City has identified specific areas for the rollout of boreholes and standpipes to secure more reliable, localised access to water. These interventions are focused on:

- De Wagensdrift
- Kameeldrift
- Leeufontein Ext 27 and 32
- Pienaarspoort Ext 20, 21 and 26
- Laezonia
- Overwatch

These areas have been prioritised due to persistent supply constraints, infrastructure limitations, and their distance from stable bulk supply.

Boreholes and standpipes provide an immediate, dependable source of water while broader network upgrades and long-term solutions are implemented.

This approach ensures that even as we move towards full system stabilisation, vulnerable communities are not left behind, and access to water is progressively secured in a practical and sustainable manner.

The system is being stabilised. Water losses are being reduced. Control over tanker operations is being restored. Infrastructure investment is being increased.

The focus is on reliable supply.

Water must be provided through the network, not through tankers.

Work is being implemented area by area.

The objective is to restore consistent, reliable water supply across Tshwane.

**Enquiries:**



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