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ALL MEDIA HOUSES

ATT: Editors/Journalists

For immediate release

MEDIA STATEMENT: DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK

It has public knowledge that the country is facing a Cholera outbreak with a death toll of 26 and around 48 people hospitalized, due to the contaminated water at its source, such as reservoirs (Storage of water). A phenomenon that has further reinforced government's concern over the quality of portable water provided by water service authorities, especially local government.

Cholera can be transmitted by means of contaminated food and vegetables that have been fertilized with human excreta or through contaminated drinking water. It can also be caused by beverages, iced and bottled water prepared with the contaminated water.

The municipality would like to offer reassurance of non-presence of E.coli in its water source, and also no threat of Cholera contamination in the water supplied through its sources.

The municipality has a standing Memorandum of Understanding with the Gert Sibande District Municipality's Water Testing Laboratory. Through the MoU, this accredited laboratory regularly test water sampled randomly within the municipality and provide results thereof and it is on the results obtained from these results the municipality can proven the that the purified portable water at the plant and other areas exceeded the acceptable limits as per the drinking standards, according to: SANS 241-2015 and therefore considered to be safe for human consumption and use.

Further to that, the municipality will employ the following measures to ensure it prevents Cholera outbreak in the locality;

- water quality sampling at Fortuna Water Purification Plant, both at raw water level and after the disinfection processes at the plant before it can be pumped thorough to other feeder sources.

- Awareness Campaign - through which the community will be conscientized about the danger of using the contaminated water and also encouraging the treatment of water (boiling) before consumption.
- Pamphlet Distribution - the municipality will distribute flyers/pamphlets at targeted hotspots to reach as many residents as possible. This will include the utilization of new media as well as any other means of communication at the municipality's disposal.
- Active Engagement - the municipality foster engagements business owners in all nodal points to purchase and resell safe food. This will also include the intensification of site inspections particularly to prepared food outlets.

The municipality continues to commit itself in the provision of quality services to its residents and the fight against Cholera.

ENDS

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