

MADONSELA PLEASSED WITH NALA PROGRESS

February 8, 2013



Pleased with progress ... Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, believes there is still room for improvement, despite the

Madonsela has acknowledged that Nala has move swiftly to address the service delivery concerns

The public protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela, has expressed satisfaction with the progress the embattled Nala Local Municipality has made in achieving clean governance and effective service delivery.

The Free State municipality had been dogged by allegations of corruption, poor service delivery and financial mismanagement. The national treasury had initially threatened to withhold funding to the municipality, but later decided to allocated monies under stringent conditions.

Madonsela had visited the municipality last year after residents complained about a substantial number of incomplete RDP houses.

This time around she was pleased with the progress made by the municipality during her follow-up fact-finding visit to Monyakeng this week. She came to assess whether the municipality had adhered to last year's promise to clean up its act.

Madonsela was also reporting back to the community and the municipality about the findings of her investigations. She also had consultations with local residents, who were very eager to raise their concerns.

"This morning I had a successful meeting with the municipality. I have also observed improvements. Where more action is needed the municipality has promised to deliver. In terms of the sewerage, the municipality said they do not have enough money to finish the project," said Madonsela.

The municipality needs R200-million to overhaul the sewerage system.

"The finding is that the system was done wrongly and this means they have to start afresh."

The Weekly

The contractors who were paid in full by the municipality to construct the waste water treatment plant failed to complete the project. The municipality has appointed a task team which will work with the police to investigate, prosecute and recover the monies from the implicated contractors.

Madonsela said she was confident that the sewerage construction project will be completed once the municipality receives the required funds.

“Phase two of the sewerage project will need R20-million to R30-million to be completed. But the municipality has committed itself to fixing the pipes and install them where they were not laid. This municipality is largely using the buckets system. This problem will not be solved immediately.”

The slow phasing out of the bucket system is not exceptional to Nala, but the problem was compounded by cable theft at the purification plant last year. Now there is 24 hours security to safeguard the area.

The community had also complained about the incomplete park in Monyakeng. The park was left unfinished even though funds were allocated.

“Nothing has been done about this park even though we have established that this was a R2-million project. There is no evidence as to who was supposed to be responsible for all this; yet R400 000 was paid. We are still investigating the original plan,” said Madonsela.

Scores of residents complained about unfinished RDP houses, but Madonsela told them that housing is not the municipality’s responsibility. She said it was a human settlement and land claim issue.

A local resident, Martha Magwaca (80), told The Weekly she was desperate to have a flush toilet to replace her bucket latrine with its repugnant smell. Though the toilet structure has been built in her yard, she is unable to use it because the pipes are incomplete. If she does use it, she risks waste spillage in her yard.

“The sewerage system is incomplete and we cannot use our flush toilet. All my children have had tuberculosis because of the stench of the bucket toilet. It is emptied once a week, although and sometimes we have to clean it ourselves. I hope this problem is solved soon because this is killing us,” said Magwaca.

The municipal manager, Chris Mokomela, promised to comply with Madonsela’s recommendation that buckets be collected and cleaned twice a week. This will be done while the waste water purification plant is still been fixed and pipes are being installed.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]