

## RECYCLED WATER USED FOR SANITATION IN BOSHOF

March 2, 2012

**Eradicating bucket toilets ... Dignitaries and journalists view a R356-million recycling waterborne sanitation project in Boshof.**



Sanah Jansen is a Boshof resident who will be benefiting from a recycling waterborne sanitation project. It was launched in the town as part of a programme aimed at eradicating the bucket system this week.

Jansen, who lives in Seretse, has a leaking toilet at the back of her house. The stench has become unbearable and she cannot use it. The only option for her is to use the bucket system. Her outhouse is made of corrugated iron and inside it is a black bucket with wooden planks.

But it will not be like this for much longer after the National Department of Water Affairs launched the recycling waterborne sanitation project worth R356-million in the small town, 95 kilometres from Bloemfontein.

The project entails a closed-circuit system whereby the recycled water from the treatment plant would be reticulated back into system for flushing purposes only.

In Tokologo Municipality, the majority of the people use the bucket system as a means to relieve themselves. Nineteen percent of the people flush toilets inside their homes, 1.4 percent flush using a septic tank, 23.6 percent use VIP toilets, and 34 percent of the community uses the bucket system.

According to TBDC contractor Kenny Mofokeng, the project will extract the water from the sewerage to clean and purify it by using chlorine to ensure the water can be used again.

# The Weekly

Constructing of the purification plant began in 2007. The incubation phase, which will accommodate 500 households, has commenced. After successful completion, it will be rolled out to a larger area. Mofokeng said the biotechnology has a 30 year lifespan and uses atmospheric oxygen techniques to purify the water.

“The system will ensure that the smell of the waste is limited and restricted to the area of purification. The water is separated from the waste in three tanks and later the waste dumped at a site nearby.”

Lack of infrastructure and water shortages were two of the challenges experienced while building the infrastructure for the project.

According to the spokesperson of the municipality, Lakes Chakane, the project was established in 2007 to help eliminate the 1 500 buckets in the municipality.

Mayor Kegomoditsoe Makhobo added that the project had previously been implemented in Hertzogville and Dealesville, and will now be established in Boshof.

“Right now we have a water project in Christiana, which is funded by DWAF. It started in Hertzogville and then went to Dealesville and then Boshof. At least there is a little water visible. It's not as bad as in the other two towns.”

Makhobo added that the municipality relies on underground resources to provide the town's water.

“Since our municipality does not have money, we applied to DWAF to supply us with money to build the water project.”

Makhobo said more money will be needed to carry on with the project and the municipality will again apply to DWAF for funding to make sure the project does not come to a halt.

There are, however, concerns about the waste from the project. The sludge is not sealed and can pose a health threat risk to the children who live in the neighbourhood.

On the day of the launch, a tractor was used to cover the waste with sand and a furrow was constructed to allow the sludge to drain into a nearby pond.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]