



**COGHSTA**

**Department of Cooperative Governance,  
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs  
NORTHERN CAPE**

**MEDIA STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS**

**DATE: 02 APRIL 2025**

**MEC BENTLEY VASS UNDERTAKES OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE SOL PLAATJE  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO ACCELERATE SERVICE DELIVERY AND  
STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT COORDINATION.**

MEC Bentley Vass, responsible for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) in the Northern Cape, on Tuesday, 01 April 2025, undertook an oversight visit to the Sol Plaatje Municipality (SPM), as part of a drive to accelerate service delivery and ensure better coordination between the two spheres of government.

The visit began with a high-level meeting, attended by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Martha Bartlett, the Speaker of Council, Councillor Dipuo Peters, Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs), and senior administrative leaders of the SPM.

During the session, reports were presented on the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) project aimed at addressing the municipality's water challenges, as well as the ongoing issues in Diamond Park related to sewerage. The meeting also focused on the municipality's planned interventions to resolve these issues.

Following the meeting, the delegation visited the Newton Water Reservoir and the Diamond Park area to further assess the situation on the ground.

MEC Vass was joined by the Acting Head of the Department, Adv. Mogami Manyeneng, and senior managers from the Department of COGHSTA.



Executive Mayor Martha Bartlett expressed her appreciation for the visit, stating, “We are pleased that MEC Vass took the time to visit today, as it has provided us with an opportunity to engage on critical issues of service delivery. We value the support from COGHSTA and trust that such engagements will continue regularly so that we can work together to better serve our communities.”

The visit also aimed to reinforce intergovernmental coordination and improve service delivery, in line with the priorities of the 7th Administration and the integration and partnership model set forth by the District Development Model.

In concluding the visit, MEC Vass remarked, “We are encouraged by the positive feedback on the BFI water project and the ongoing efforts to resolve the water challenges in the city. We have established a task team consisting of the Department of COGHSTA, the Sol Plaatje Municipality and National Department of Water and Sanitation to explore long-term solutions for the sewer challenges in Diamond Park, while acknowledging the municipality’s interim measures to alleviate the situation for residents.”

MEC Vass further emphasized that similar oversight visits will be conducted in other municipalities across the province to ensure that all municipalities are mobilized to accelerate the resolution of service delivery issues.

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**JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE NORTHERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA), AND THE SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY.**

