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Library
IRC International Water
and Sanitation Centre
Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80
Fax: +31 70 35 899 64

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PO Box 93190, 2509 AD THE HAGUE
Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80
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REF NO 118

HA KHOTSO VWS PROJECT

PREPARATION

To prepare for a system the villagers made an application, in 1983 and they were told by DRWS that they should identify reliable springs which could be used, also to arrange free accommodation for DRWS field staff.

The villagers identified springs which are somewhere in the fields and arranged accommodation for DRWS field staff. They also elected VWC.

DURING CONSTRUCTION

Construction started in January 1986 and was completed in October 1986. Community participation was not good at times because people were not satisfied with springs which were caught. Springs caught were in the premises of the Matela Farmers Training Centre (FTC).

An introductory Pitso to explain the system also to inform villagers about which springs were going to be caught and to explain reasons why springs identified by the villagers were not used was not made before construction starts. It was during construction that DRWS technical staff started explaining it when they saw already that people were not satisfied about springs used, and when they refused to dig trenches going to the FTC itself.

From that time people had the feeling that they were cheated by the DRWS office and the centre, they started losing the hope that they will have full right to control the system however DRWS staff convinced them that they will have no problem in sharing the system with the centre and they used students from the FTC to dig trenches going to the centre themselves. However villagers were still not satisfied because technical staff were now staying in the FTC and had not informed them why they no longer stayed in the village where they had arranged accommodation for them.

THE PROJECT

The project was a Diesel pump system, serving total population of + 1000 ? people it serves the whole of Khotso village with subvillages, Matlakeng (1) Ha Majoro (2) Ha Mota (1) Makoating (2) Ha Mohlakoane (1) Sekoting (2) Khatleng (1) Majareteng (1) Taung (1) Phororong (1) Sekolong (1) and Tankeng (1).

There is a newly elected VDC and one Coordinating VWC which was elected in 1986.

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THE PROJECT DESIGN

The project has 3 spring catchment (2) two insight the FTCs, yard, and one (1) just outside. It has one pump house (2) two tanks one near the pump house and the other big one in the middle of the fields on top of the village.

It has (16) sixteen collection points all of which are not working.

BASIC DESCRIPTION ON HOW THE PROJECT WAS OPERATED AND MANAGED

From the beginning there was no clear written agreement on how the FTC and the village would operate and maintain the system,. It was expected that the FTC in Cooperation with the village would share the running cost and take turns in running the system i.e the village would provide diesel and pump for one month and the following month would be FTCs turn to provide diesel and pump for both the villages and the FTC.

It was decided that the water supply will give the village 80% eighty and the FTC the remaining twenty 20% of the daily water consumptions.

The villagers agreed within themselves that each household must contribute M1.00 towards diesel fund.

The system was smoothly run for about a year the village elected their own pump minder who used to pump for 8 hrs, 4 hrs in the morning and 4 hrs in the afternoon, the VWC used to buy 40l which was enough to pump for one month.

After about a year some households started to delay paying for diesel fund. Some did not pay anymore complaining that M1.00 was too much, and come giving excuses that they have nothing in their pockets.

This created conflicts between villagers themselves because those people who did not pay for diesel were the first to draw water from the system, some even used 200l to draw water, and people who paid could not get enough water especially those further law to the village.

The problem of an even consumption of water by villagers and failure to pay for diesel let to stoppage of the engine by the FTC in April 1990. The villagers and the FTC started logging complains about each other to DRWS District office. FTC complaining that villagers delay to pump when its their turn for about a week and as the result the FTC suffers because it sometimes have ^{1/2} courses where more people come and would use more water.

The villagers agrees to this but also explained that, the FTC does not pump enough hours when its their turn they just pump until their own tank is filled and stops pumping before the villagers tank gets filled up.

Villagers also complained that the engine now uses more diesel than it used to i.e it used 80l to pump for one week while before it used to consume 40l for the same one week.

They also raised up the issue of the centre using small boys to operate and pump the engine who would not consider if villagers tank is full.

The DRWS staff considered the discussion and promised to come up with the proposal on how they could manage it in another meeting the then DE Maseru made his calculation based on information received from his staff and came up with the suggestion and proposal that an amount of diesel needed in a month would be 80l. They should pump 8 hrs a day and each household should pay M0.25c considering repairs and maintenance the monthly contribution should be increased to M0.30c per household per month.

VWC raised questions about transporting diesel to the village, and the FTC Director promised to help them with free transport.

This proposal was agreed to by both the FTC and the villagers. They both promised to stick to it and seemed to understand their responsibilities in O+M of the system.

Nevertheless after sometime the FTC decided to cut the pipe supplying villages tank few month later, villagers complained about this but the FTC told them that they have been allowed and given this instruction by the DRWS District office.

The villagers wrote a ^{letter} litter to DRWS complaining, but they are not sure if the letter reached the office because they gave it to the FTC Director himself to take it to DRWS office. From then the villagers especially VWC lost trust in DRWS. They believe they have been cheated on behalf of the centre and thinks they'll never receive any support from the office anymore.

In 1995 FTC installed an electric pump in the storage tank to pump for themselves only leaving villagers without water, the FTC also privately connected (3) three households with private connections also connected the nursery school with private tank and private stand pipe.

After connection of the electric pump to the villagers tank the FTCs Director (Mr *Malebana*...) asked the Chief of the place Morena Letsika Khotso to come and take his engine because it was not used anymore, Morena Letsika informed his VDC about the Directors intension and also asked them to go to receive the engine.

The VDC and VWC went to the centre to receive the engine but before it was handed over to them they asked the Director to inspect the engine so that when it is handed over they can be sure its working. This is the time when they found that the electric pump has been installed in their tank. They also found that some bolts and nuts are missing from the engine and it is also disconnected, the assumption was that the engine was ready to be stolen.

The VDC decided that they will not take the engine in that condition, so they decided to call DRWS people to come and inspect it to make sure that it would work when they take it. *To make sure it works* However they even decided to ask sizes of taps which were broken from DRWS so that they can fix them, buy some little diesel to pump to make sure that the engine is working.

When asking why the Director installed an electric pump in the tank without informing the villagers the FTC Director replied that he has been allowed by DRWS to do so. But with missing nuts and bolts he said he has the clue regarding who must have stolen them he advised the villagers to accuse him, (take him) to court and it is there where he can give the clue. Since he is the only one who have the key to the pump house.

On the time of visit I asked them why they delayed to take action against the Director even when he had encouraged and advised him *then* to do so but the VDC told me that they were still in the process to do that when one day they saw a big truck with 6 200l drums drawing water from the tap near the pump house they went to ask and they took the owner of the truck to their Chief.

The truck owner told them that he is a taxi owner called Ralikese staying at ha Phaloane, he told them that he got permission from the FTC Director's to draw water from that tap and apologized for doing so, the villagers charged him M50.00 for the amount of water he had drawn, they also informed him that whenever he goes to draw water from that tap he should pay M50.00. The man agreed but said at that time he had no money comfined he confused them that he will pay that M50.00 to the police the next day.

The next day the taxi owner went to police and paid M50.00 after a day VDC Chairman went to ask the money from police. The policeman who was claimed to have taken the money told them that its true that the taxi owner have paid but he can only give them M50.00 when all members of VDCs and VWC are present. They arrange a meeting when they could all come to the police station to receive M50.00.

In the mean time when one day they went to the pump house they found that the engine was now missing it has been stolen.

The VDC and VWC went to report the missing engine to the police the police asked them to give the number of the missing engine, the villagers did not know. The police told them that he will go to DRWS office to inquire the engine number while still making investigations about the stolen engine.

The police who took M50.00 have disappeared villagers reported that they never see him even when they ask for him from the police station they were always told that he has gone to Maseru.

The taxi owner is now freely drawing water from the system he even threaten to shoot villagers if they dare ask him anything about water anymore.

The villagers especially VWC don't trust the police FTC and DRWS anymore. They ~~Believe~~ ^{SUSPECT} their engine has been stolen by the taxi owner in cooperation with the police.

To reconstruct the whole system they believe they have springs somewhere in the fields which never dry up and they requested help to catch those springs and use them instead of using springs in the FTC yard. They made it clear that they don't want to share the system with the centre anymore and on top of that they don't want pumped system.

However they told us that already they have a plan to call a pitso to discuss the issue of reanimating the present crises and said I should make a follow up of that next time.

BRAKE DOWNS / MAINTENANCE

During the time of visit I found that the pump house is unlocked, the lock cut, the engine was missing. The tap near the pump house was also broken and water was spliting out on top of the tap. At the big tank the manhole cover was pushed inside, several pipelines were exposed taps were also broken. The whole system was not working.

CONCLUSION

To conclude the villagers told me that they don't want a pumping system anymore, especially if they have to share it with the centre. They believe they don't own the system therefore they have no full right to control it. However they fully believe taps belongs to them because they have used spring belonging to somebody premises. They believe they have been cheated from the beginning.

THERE IS A NEWLY ELECTED VDC AND A COORDINATING VWC WHICH WAS ELECTED IN 1986 NAMELY:-

VDC

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| - Monaheng Bereng | - Chairman |
| - Sefako Martin | - Treasurer |
| - Malefuo Kolobe | - Secretary |
| - Khoabe Lechesa | - Vice Secretary |
| - Charles Mahase | - Member |
| - Malimabe Mohlakoane | - Member |
| - Morena Letsika Khotso | - Member |

The VDC members feels their role as to support the VWC in all village related Water issues, with emphasis in assisting VWC to solve villagers problems according to their agreed bye laws.

VWC

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| - Thelima Phafoli | - Chairman |
| - Mathulara Mohlolo | - Secretary |
| - Mantho-e-sele Ntshoha | - Treasurer |
| - Mamolikoe Mohlolo | - Member |
| - Mateboho Khotso | - Member |
| - Makhotsa Khotso | - Member |

These VWC members were elected in 1986 and they are still functioning even at the time of visit.

WATER MINDER

There is the Water minder by the name of Ntate who was also elected in 1986 and was still functioning at the time of visit.

The Principal Chief of this village is Morena Khoabane Theko and the Ward Chief is Morena Tholo Theko, The Chief of Ha Ratau.

KOMITI EA METSI

Elected 1986

Thelima Phafoli	-	Chairman
Mathulara Mohlolo	-	Secretary
Mamolikoe Mohlolo	-	Member
Mateboho Khotso	-	Member
Makhotso Khotso	-	Member
Mantho-e-sele Ntshoha	-	Treasurer

VDC

Mohau Bereng	-	Chairman
Sefako Mariting	-	Treasurer
Malefuo Kolobe	-	Secretary
Charles Mahasa	-	Member
Khoabe Lechesa	-	Vice Secretary
Malimabe Mohlokoane	-	Member
Morena Letsika Khotso	-	Member