

## Tshwane Officials Seek Water Security Solutions in Denmark

In a bold move towards ensuring a sustainable water future, a delegation from the City of Tshwane recently undertook a pivotal five-day visit to City of Aarhus and Aarhus Vand in Denmark. This collaboration is part of the City's ambitious plan to develop a holistic Water Security Vision Strategy 2050 aimed at building a water secure future for the City to support growth and development. The team representing seven City departments including Office of the COO, Office of the CFO, Water and Sanitation, Regional Operations and Coordination, Communication, City Planning, and City Strategies, engaged in intensive discussions coupled with practical site visits demonstrating innovative approaches to urban water management. The delegation's primary objectives were to refine the approach to developing the Water Security Vision and to finalise a set of **five supporting sub-visions** that will frame the strategy as follows:

1. **People:** Building partnerships and fostering a conscious water society.
2. **Governance:** Establishing frameworks for effective water resource management.
3. **Growth:** Ensuring environmental-friendly growth that is supported by sustainable supply of water and sanitation services.
4. **Water Services:** Enhancing service delivery related to water, sanitation and stormwater services.
5. **Environment:** Promoting environment and biodiversity programmes and initiatives in water resource management.

During their stay, the Tshwane officials visited two suburbs in Aarhus, observing firsthand how effective stormwater management and city planning can mitigate urban flooding and enhance water quality. These practical examples are expected to inform strategies back home as Tshwane grapples with high levels of non-revenue water, inefficient wastewater treatment processes, and high water consumption. "This partnership with Aarhus and its water utility, Aarhus Vand, is crucial for us," said Lutske Newton, the Project Manager responsible for **Water Resilient Cities Programme**, a city-to-city collaboration with the City of Aarhus designed to improve service delivery in Tshwane's water sector. "The insights gained during such missions help us identify ways of tackling our local challenges more effectively ensuring that we provide clean and reliable water for all residents."

The collaboration, which started in March 2023, is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to address pressing issues such as water loss, inefficient wastewater treatment, and the impacts of climate change on local water resources with the aim of making Tshwane a water conscious society.

The urgency for effective solutions has never been greater. As Tshwane moves forward with its Water Security Strategy, the collaboration with City of Aarhus and Aarhus Vand serves as a beacon of hope for sustainable urban water management. The lessons learned from Denmark will be instrumental in shaping a resilient future for Tshwane, ensuring that it can meet the needs of its growing population while safeguarding its precious water resources. With this strategic approach, Tshwane aims not only to secure an adequate water supply but also to adapt to future climate challenges, setting an example for cities around the world facing similar issues.