



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: ALL EDITORS**

**DATE: 17 MAY 2016**

### **LAUNCH OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE LONG-TERM SOLUTION**

The Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), a state owned entity under the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), was, in 2011 mandated by government through the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) to provide a short-term solution to the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) challenge experienced by the Gauteng province. The IMC comprises of the following ministers: Water and Sanitation, Mineral Resources, Finance, Science and Technology, as well as the Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning.

This project was aimed at implementing the short-term action plan in the Western, Central and Eastern Basins of the Witwatersrand Goldfields as recommended to the Inter-Ministerial Committee by the Team of Experts (ToE). The short-term action plan was to prevent decant in the Western Basin and breaching of the Environmental Critical Level (ECL) in the Central and Eastern Basins.

With the short-term solution close to a successful completion, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane recently launched the long-term solution to AMD. The date for the launch was Wednesday 18 May 2016, at the AMD Central Basin in Germiston. The event took place between 11h00 and 16h00.

The purpose of the long-term solution is to further treat the water by removing the sulphates and creating water for commercial use as either industrial or potable water. The long-term solution will therefore turn the AMD problem into a long-term sustainable solution by producing safe water.

**END.**

**Issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority**

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