



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

R600 million per annum committed to the long-term solution for AMD challenge

18 May 2016

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, on Wednesday, 18 May 2016, announced that R600 million per annum will be committed through the National Treasury to addressing the Acid Mine Drainage challenge.

The announcement was made at the South West Vertical Shaft, Central Basin in Germiston, where the department together with the implementing agent, Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) was hosting members of the media and other industry experts.

This solution Minister Mokonyane said “promises simultaneously to augment water supply to the nation’s economic hub of Gauging region. This long term intervention will therefore turn the AMD problem into a long term sustainable solution by producing fully treated water that will significantly increase water supply to the Vaal River System and defer the need for further costly augmentation beyond Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project for at least another 30 years.”

“The pinnacle of this approach is that a polluted resource once considered with contempt, now becomes a commodity contributing to security of the availability of water resources in the Vaal River System”, added the Minister.

With the support of the National Treasury the department has decided to cap the contributions of the water users to the cost of addressing the challenge to only 33% of the project cost. The intention of government is to recover the balance of 67% from the mines through the proposed environmental levy.

In the interim however, prior to the implementation of the policy and associated consultations government will cover the anticipated costs.

Almost 1000 short and long term jobs have been created through this long term solution which started operating in 2014.

In her concluding remarks Minister said “let South Africa celebrate that we have found our own home-made and homegrown solution towards this challenge so that we can be seen as a country that is forward looking.

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