



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Minister Nkwinti proposes short term solution to the water crisis in Giyani**

10 December 2018

The Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mr Gugile Nkwinti, accompanied by Limpopo COGSTA MEC, Mr Jerry Ndou, together with the Mopani District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nkakareng Rakgwale last Friday visited Giyani in the Mopani District Municipality where a recovery plan of the Giyani Bulk Water Supply project was presented.

Speaking to the media in Giyani, Minister Nkwinti indicated that the reason the project has stalled was because there were investigation into the project.

“We cannot continue to pump in tax payers’ money into the project whereas there are investigations into how these tenders were awarded. We had to stop paying the contractors until the investigations are complete, as by paying we will be complicit to crime if found that the contract was awarded irregularly and we continued paying the contractor even during the investigations”, Said Minister Nkwinti.

The Minister did acknowledge that even though there are investigations into the project, the people of Giyani want to see water running out of their taps.

“We met here in May to understand the plight of the people of Giyani, and we also met again in Polokwane under the leadership of MEC Ndou to come up with the recovery plan on the big project. But as there are investigations going on, we understand the people want water as of yesterday. As a Department we held an Innovative Conference last month in November, and we met with stakeholder who has got technological innovations that have got the capacity in terms of water and sanitation. I found that there is a company that is able to drill water out of the Sand River, and also another one that is able to drill borehole water using solar, just 100% solar, that is green energy”.

“We engaged with these companies to say we want them to come and test if water is available in the Great Letaba River which was identified as a sand river, so that if the water is available, a tender can be put out with the help of National treasury so that those with



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capability to do that work can be able to compete, then the people of Giyani can be able to get Water in the shorter term as we await the issues in the bigger project to be resolved. And if the people of Giyani agrees, those people will be here in two weeks to come test the sand river”, said Minister Nkwinti

The District’s Executive Mayor indicated that they would appreciate any innovation that would bring water to the people of Giyani, as they understand that the investigations have to be completed before the bigger project can be commenced.

“We really appreciated the efforts by the Minister, as you have shown since your appointment in February that you want this project to be completed and bring water to our people here in Giyani. We welcome any innovation that will give us water, even if it is in the shorter term, as we await the completion of the bigger project. We say to you Minister, please bring those people to come and do those tests as our people need water”, concluded Cllr. Rakgwale.

**Malope Matlou**