

MEDIA RELEASE



Viva Water Pure and Clean Viva Forests Rich and Green
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry - Chief Directorate: Communication Services
Tel (012) 336 8264 Fax (012) 324 6592

MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY, MR RONNIE KASRILS

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Embargo: Immediate

The CEO of Umgeni Water, Mr Cromet Molepo, was given a mandate which he exercised actively in terms of transformation and resolving outstanding issues that had plagued Umgeni for so long.

On 14 June 2001, I gave a vote of confidence in a collective composed of the Chairperson, the CEO and the new Board. The suspension of Mr Molepo is the result of an investigation conducted by an attorney, Mr von Klemperers. I accept the outcome of the inquiry and the decision of the board to suspend Mr Molepo.

Although Mr Molepo had last week submitted his resignation, I approve of the Board's decision to suspend the CEO in order to give Mr Molepo the opportunity to answer the charges against him.

I base my approach on the need for full transparency and accountability to the public.

The transformation process at Umgeni Water has not been set back by the suspension of the CEO as transformation is not reliant on a single individual but on a team.

I have the fullest confidence in the board I appointed. Its record so far, including the new development, reinforces my confidence in them as a board that will act decisively.