



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **OUTA DELIBERATELY OUT TO UNDERMINE WATER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION**

13 January 2016

The Organization Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) has issued a statement indicating that it would be introducing a portfolio within the body aimed at *"investigating possible maladministration within the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), regarding concerns about governance, transparency and corruption."*

According to OUTA, relevant information regarding water and sanitation management is not transparently available to society and, as such, this is indicative of maladministration and corruption.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is accountable to the people of South Africa through Parliament; and as required by law, submits annual reports and audited financial statements on an annual basis for public scrutiny.

In the last financial year, 2015/16, the department achieved its first unqualified audit opinion in since 2009, from the Auditor-General of South Africa. Equally, on an annual basis the department issues the Blue Drop (water quality) and Green Drop (waste water) reports for individual municipalities as a tool to monitor and identify successes and weaknesses in the management of water and sanitation services in the country.

The statements by OUTA are nothing but a smokescreen being created to further distract the department from attending to the priority imperatives of transformation as set out by the Minister.

OUTA is joining a group of outside influences who seek to undermine the transformative efforts of the department in order to protect interests of certain minorities in the supply, services and water rights responsibilities of the department.

OUTA should perhaps investigate why we continue having communities surrounding large dams whose water rights are held by individual farmers who refuse to provide access to such communities, and instead use water for the single-purpose of irrigation and water-sports when people remain without water.



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Their investigation should also go to the extent to which certain well established companies continue to hold a monopoly over professional services and construction projects of the department, forcefully excluding black-owned entities, women, youth and people with disabilities, twenty-two years post democracy.

It is on these issues that we would welcome any input from OUTA to assist us move South Africa forward and to ensure access to clean water and decent sanitation by all citizens, particularly the poor.

The statement made is opportunistic, is based on falsehoods and is intended to protect minority interests under the guise of promoting transparency and good governance.

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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