



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Taps do not run dry, despite slow recovery from drought

02 October 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation is working diligently to improve its internal controls in an effort to ensure good governance in the department and address all matters raised in the 2016/2017 audit report by the Auditor-General, Mr Kimi Makwetu.

The department acknowledges the regression from its achievements of 2015/2016 when the department obtained an unqualified audit, a feat that was last achieved in 2009.

Notwithstanding the challenges that the department has faced with the debilitating drought of the last three years, the department will improve its oversight in the allocation of funds to its implementing agents, who deliver services on behalf of the department.

The department is steadfast in its resolve to work closely with water entities as well as municipalities in ensuring that all the National Treasury processes are adhered to, in line with Public Finance Management Act.

To this end, the department is finalising the transfer of Assets and Liabilities to the Implementing Agents such as municipalities to ensure compliance with such prescripts that guide how public funds ought to be spent.

Motivated by its zeal of ensuring that taps do not run dry; the department finds itself having to intervene in situations that need emergency interventions. This is often not budgeted for and results in what is described as unauthorised expenditure. In nature this was due to the fact that the budget of the department was used for service delivery expenses that was not initially identified or planned for.

The department has however enhanced its capital infrastructure projects planning thus reducing emergency intervention projects to a minimum whilst ensuring compliance with the financial prescripts.

The department continues to work closely with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, SALGA, provincial governments and municipalities in providing capacity and support, whilst applying the Public Finance Management Act and Municipal Finance Management Act.

The Office of the Auditor General Department has also been engaged on areas of concerns regarding fruitless and wasteful expenditure and the department is waiting their response.

The Department of Water and Sanitation remains resolute about ensuring access to water and decent sanitation, despite challenging financial times; given the slow recovery from the drought and the fact



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that the department was never allocated additional funds to address the drought and other emergency interventions.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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