



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Minister Nkwinti announces bold steps to turn around the Department of Water and Sanitation**

06 June 2018

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Gugile Nkwinti, today, Wednesday, 06 June 2018 marks 100 days at the helm of the Department of Water and Sanitation after his appointment by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Since his appointment in this new portfolio he has announced bold plans to turn things around and accelerative service delivery imperatives of the department.

In his first 100 days, Minister Nkwinti has already developed a five-pillar turn-around strategy to address issues of service delivery, namely;

- A National Water Resources and Services Authority
- A National Water Resources and Services Regulator
- A Water Resources and Services Value Chain
- A Water Resources and Services Master Plan
- Institutional Rationalisation and Organisational Alignment

Minister Nkwinti has outlined his plans of instilling the culture of achieving more with less in the department, thus reducing the manner in which money is being spent.

To further reduce spending, he announced that instead of appointing service providers for construction work, the Construction Unit of the department will be utilized for infrastructure projects of the department. This is intended to reduce unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Some of the challenges that the department has been grappling with has been the issue of municipalities who receive grants from the department and their inability to spend their allocated funds. In some instances, they either spend irregularly, a phenomenon which has gotten the department in hot water with the Office of the Auditor-General.

To avert the situation, Minister Nkwinti has taken an initiative to engage National Treasury and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to address the perennial problem of billions of municipal grant funds.

With his resolve to ensure that service delivery is accelerated, Minister Nkwinti has engaged various stakeholders across the country to listen to their needs.

As such, he said that the raising of the dam wall at Clanwilliam Dam should be prioritised as a matter of urgency so that the project can start in October. He said the issue of budgetary constraints should not be seen as a hindrance to the project, instead he said that the project will be done by the department's Construction Unit.

He decried the plight of the people of Giyani and resolved that their situation will be the thing



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of the past as Giyani Intervention Project will be on his to do list. Subsequently, he announced the following:

- Turn-around plan to prioritise Nandoni pipeline and 35 mega litres command reservoir in order to increase water sourcing.
- Connect a new bulk line into the existing village distribution reservoirs and household connections.
- Fundraise for the 50 distribution reservoirs and household reticulations.
- Increased involvement of local people in subcontracting and employments.
- The 38 villages which are excluded from the intervention should also be considered.

Minister Nkwinti has announced that he will visit all the project sites to assess progress being made and engage communities to hear their concerns.

To further improve how the department is run, he has streamlined the organogram of the department pending engagement with unions.

End

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

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